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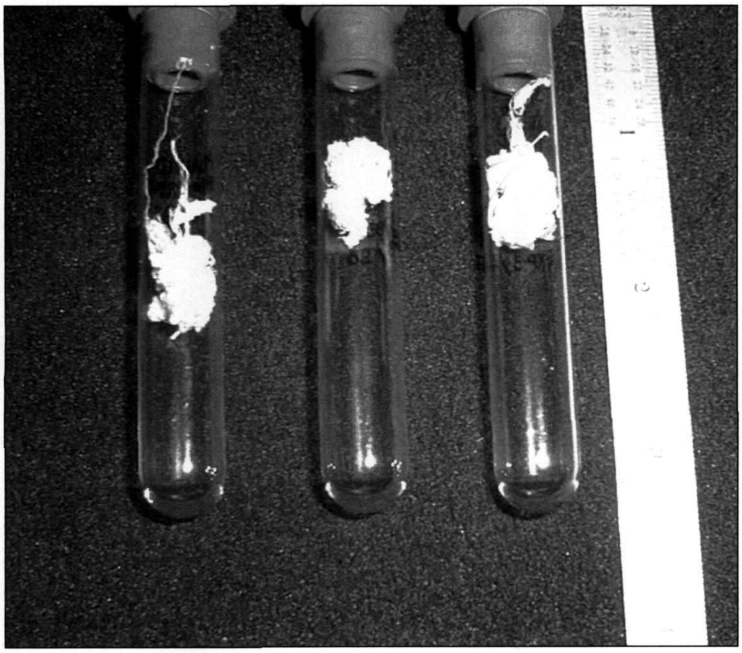
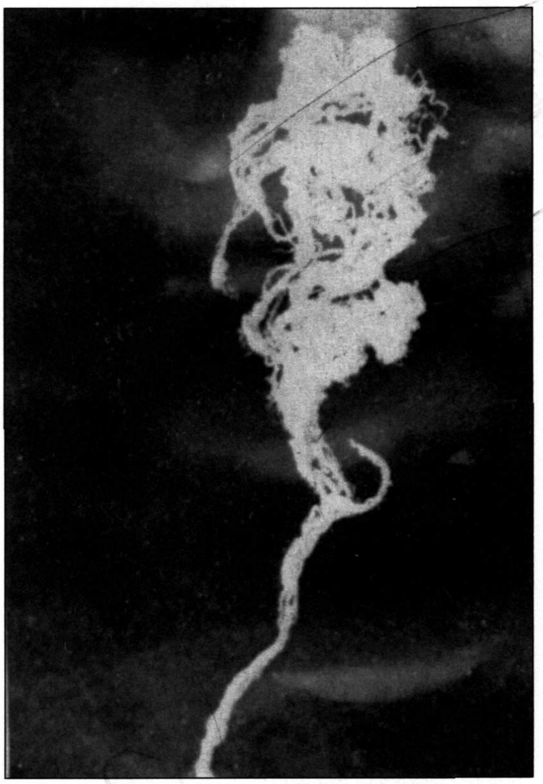
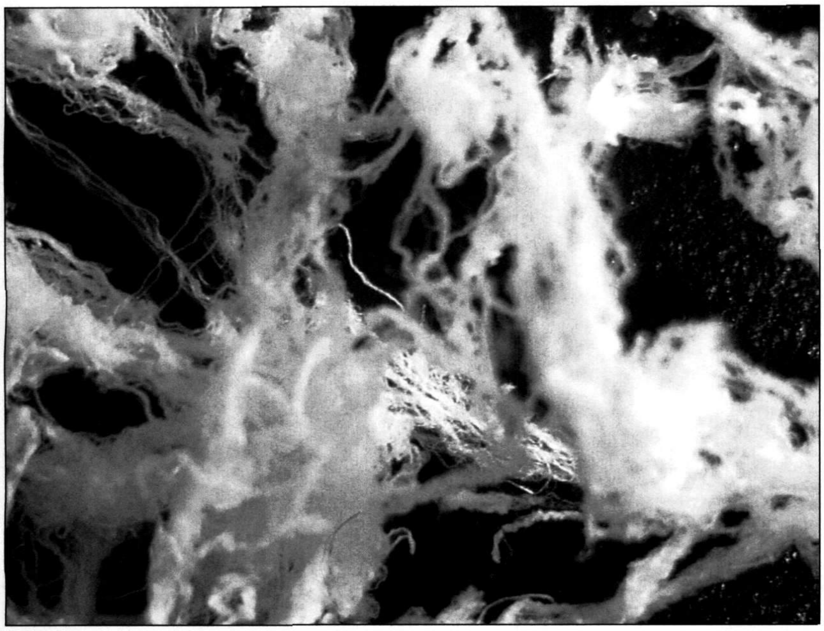
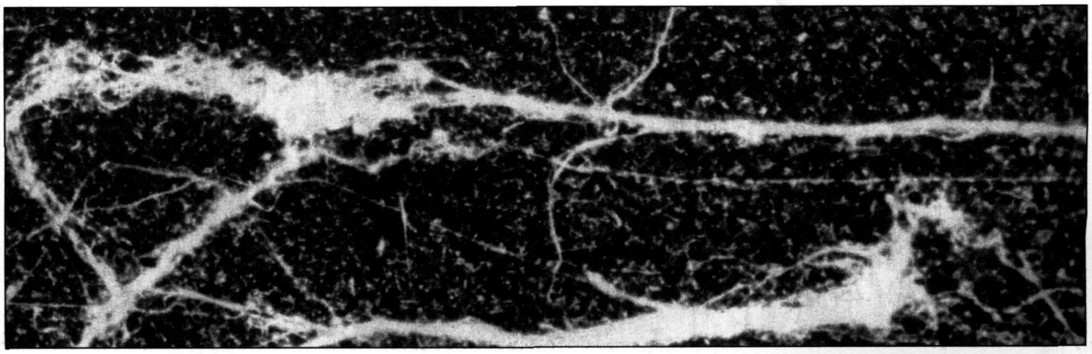






ANGEL HAIR: SPINDRIFT BETWEEN WORLDS



Angel hair samples (clockwise from top): Sacramento, November 11, 1999; Ichinoseki,Japan, October 4, 1957; La Puente, California, February 1, 1954; and a microphotograph of the Saxramento sample.

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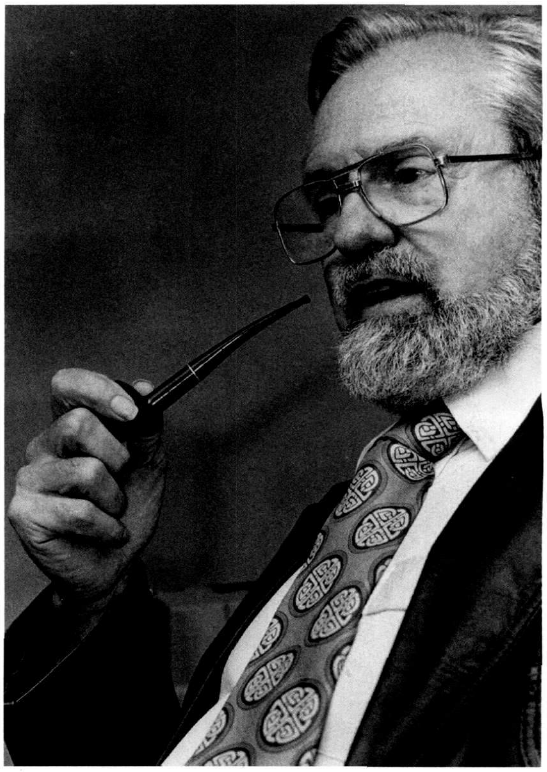

J. Allen Hynek
1910-1986

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ANGEL HAIR: SPINDRIFT BETWEEN WORLDS

BY MICHAEL D. SWORDS

As you can see from the title of this article, I'm once again writing about a topic on which I am not the expert (as compared to a Bill Chalker or Brian Boldman). But I have stumbled across a handful of items concerning angel hair that, I believe, are, in their different ways, not in the literature, and which may help folks like Bill and Brian enlarge their analyses of this fascinating phenomenon. See Brian Boldman, "An Analysis of Angel Hair, 1947–2000," *IUR* 26, no. 3 (Fall 2001): 10–20.

Also, I believe that the true angel hair cases are important to our evaluation of the UFO phenomenon in a way that almost no other cases are. UFOs are clearly the result of intelligent agents, and these agents are obviously beyond us current humans in their capabilities. Therefore, nonterrestrial intelligences are at play in this great interaction somehow or other. But the initial (for me) powerful question is: Is any of this material physical and substantially "here"? Is it brute matter, slap-in-the-face, grossly in our physical reality? Or is it light and projection, an extension of forces out of the elsewhere, with nothing actually on site and interacting with the witnesses?

Well, stupid concern, you may say. UFOs are obviously here in gross, physical ways. Perhaps. But it is amazing how many cases can be just as easily accounted for by light, holographics, or beamed electromagnetic forces. How much actual stuff do we have that was associated directly with a UFO? Roswell debris? It would end this concern if we had any. Ubatuba magnesium? Hard to prove its provenance and extraterrestrial nature. Hundreds of landing traces? These could just as easily be caused by force projections. And how many believable cases do we have where a person bangs on a UFO one way or the other? Abduction implants? I've never seen one remotely convincing.

Angel hair doesn't necessarily meet the requirements, either, but it is close. Angel hair, according to eyewitness reports, seems to be associated with a technological object and somehow to be ejected by or created by it as it moves. True, one can still imagine a light-form drama projected wherein the angel hair is produced by a beam of force acting on the molecules in air, but that's not the only way this could be happening. People like Chalker have been trying to imagine how intense short-range forces could essentially polymerize air molecules, or at least make a larger, easily dissociated material which would have an ephemeral lifetime but one long enough to fall, lay across telephone lines, be touched, but then sublimate or in some other way lose it solidity, and probably its molecular integrity, entirely. None of the several candidate molecules seems to fit the scenario.

But true angel hair cases *do* exist, are physically touchable, and are very high strangeness. So *maybe* they are directly, physically some aspect of the UFO world itself. We really could use a few good angel hair-in-the-can cases to go to the labs and find out what elements and molecules we are dealing with. I believe that if we had a little more basic knowledge, someone might be able to simulate angel hair production and we'd know something powerfully important in the war we've been having getting scientists to take the UFO phenomenon seriously.

Because of that intuition, I've kept an interested eye in the direction of intelligent commentators like Chalker and Boldman, and I have collected my own modest two-inch stack of cases and articles. In doing so, a few things have crossed my path that may be of interest even to the experts.

THE MARYSVILLE CASE

One of the classics of the angel-hair literature occurred on October 22, 1954, in Marysville, Ohio. A bunch of kids at Jerome Elementary School saw a cigar-shaped object and started screaming and hollering. Their principal, Rodney Warrick, walked out on a fire escape and saw the thing too. The cigar started moving off. The principal yelled for a teacher, Mrs. George Dittmar. She showed up late for the object but in plenty of time for a voluminous angel-hair fall. The children grabbed it and ran it up to the principal and teacher—great gobs of it. The fall continued for an amazing 45 minutes. Both adults got greenish stains on their hands from the stuff. Some was put in one or more jars. The unjarred stuff dissipated much more quickly than the angel hair in jars.

So far, all this is well known from news stories and Leonard Stringfield's report in the December 1954 *C.R.I.F.O.*

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Charles Maney

Newsletter. Most interested parties also know that Charles Maney, a physics professor at Defiance College, became involved. He got better witness interviews, including letters from the students, whom the teacher suggested write their observations on their own in separate rooms. Maney was impressed with the consistency of everyone's testimony. I can only add a little bit that's new to this, but I think it's significant.

In 1977, Bill Jones, now MUFON state director for Ohio, was interviewing Jack Pickering, an employee of Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus. The occasion for the interview was that Pickering had been at one of the Air Force bases in Ohio in 1948 when the Mantell incident occurred, and Jones was getting his take on all that. Over the 30-odd years that followed, Pickering had several interesting involvements with "mysterious things," and as the interview progressed he unloaded them.

The Marysville case took place when he was relatively fresh at Battelle. A woman at Battelle known to both Jones and Pickering went to Marysville and secured a "bottled sample" of the angel hair from some unnamed woman there, almost certainly the schoolteacher. She brought it back to Battelle, showed Pickering, and took it to a Battelle analyst to test unofficially—as a "midnight interest." Pickering wasn't involved with the test and doesn't know the results or even the type of analysis done. But he did verify that the material gradually disappeared, whether by dissociation or sublimation, right there in the sealed bottle.

We can view this added bit of information in two ways: either sadness that a big-time lab ran a test and we don't know what was found, or a measure of satisfaction. Why? I believe that Pickering's corroboration of this case and the nature of the material makes this one of the strongest independently corroborated physical-evidence and high-strangeness cases in all of ufology. If you want to make a case for physical nonterrestrial UFOs, Marysville should probably be one of the events that you wheel out.

The Oloron, France, incident of October 17, 1952, is similarly strong, but I cannot assess an early French case so well. We seem to be primarily dependent on Jimmy Guieu (Aimé Michel came somewhat later), but this was the early Jimmy Guieu, doing saner, more defensible work than some of his later romanticism. Hopefully this distant assessment is correct, as Marysville and Oloron make a powerful pair.

THE LA PUENTE CASE

Well, let's try another. Another case known to students of angel hair occurred on February 1, 1954, in La Puente, California. The source is a bit unconventional: James C. McNamara, writing in *Pageant* magazine, November 1954, pp. 52–56, although the story appeared earlier in the *San Fernando Valley Times* of February 15.

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The brief description: Around 10 a.m., Mrs. W. J. Daily was startled by jet noise, picked up her binoculars, and located the aircraft. She then turned away, but saw a silvery, bright round object elsewhere in the sky. She thought that it was low and small. The object seemed to tilt, revealing a pulsating, fiery-red bottom. She also felt that there was a small dome now, with portholes at its base. Three round structures appeared to be embedded in the reddish part. (Apparently she did not know how close she was getting in describing an Adamski scoutcraft.)

The thing began to spin and drift away. She went running through the house trying to get her husband to look at it. She did see it going rapidly away with the "oddest looking vapor trail I'd ever seen." The husband never saw the object, but he was on hand to view a huge amount of angel hair that fell all over the property. She collected samples after calling Mount Wilson Observatory, where someone suggested that she use a stick, wrapped with cloth, and a clean jar. She apparently took three samples.

These were examined by a Leroy Betz, "civilian special investigator for the U.S. Air Force"; R. DeWitt Miller, a local researcher into the paranormal; and McNamara, a former Korean War veteran and civilian radio newsman in the Army Reserve. Betz had one jar, which he opened, and the material disappeared. Miller and McNamara had two jars, one of which they opened, and the material did its vanishing act. The other they kept closed. Betz then took both their jars and said that he would send it to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for analysis. Mrs. Daily never heard anything about the results.

Much of this information I have conveyed is not in the *Pageant* article, and some of it even differs from what was reported there. So what is the source? Daily was getting all

Leroy Betz (left) and R. DeWitt Miller with the angel hair in the peanut jar.

fired up about UFOs because of her experience and was looking for information. She found the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) and Coral Lorenzen, who was then located in Alamagordo, New Mexico. Lorenzen's membership form asked if applicants had any previous UFO experiences, and Daily was happy to spill the beans. She was especially pleased to tell someone more of the details and set the record straight, as she felt *Pageant* somewhat butchered the account. The info comes to us via the one microfilm roll of APRO files that is open to UFO researchers, due to the (in my opinion) criminal removal of the files from scholarly use by whomever is controlling them. Anyway, thankful for small favors, we at least have this independent, first-person testimony about the La Puente case.

I judge that the La Puente case is also solid. People other than the Dailys were involved and saw the angel hair disappearing act. The complementary, yet fuller and eminently sensible letter to Coral Lorenzen by a witness anxious for an answer, nails this case down quite adequately. The La Puente case is largely ignored and it shouldn't be. In our field's flagship reference, Jerome Clark's *UFO Encyclopedia*, the *Pageant* reference is included, but not the case itself. He was, properly, less impressed by something with such a pop culture source than other angel hair reports. But with the APRO letter I believe that this evaluation can be amended, and La Puente rises to near the status of Maryville.

Some additional notes: Loren Gross is a rare UFO researcher who actually reads the Air Force microfilms, and he tells us, in his endlessly valuable multivolume chronicle *UFOs: A History* that, yes, Leroy Betz did take interest in the case, did confiscate the material, and that R. DeWitt Miller was involved. Betz adds that W. J. Daily had the wits to find a cobweb and compare it to the fallen strands, noting a complete difference not only in its feel but also the legendary stability of cobweb versus angel hair. In Miller's write-up of the incident, he noted that Mrs. Daily's angel hair did not disintegrate even when a 1,000-watt photographic light was shown on it. To him this indicated that some time element of exposure to air, not light, was the key to the material disappearing. Miller phoned Betz twice about testing and was told nothing. One supposes that the sealed peanut butter jar sits in storage right alongside the Roswell debris and the Lost Ark of the Covenant.

Next, off to Rome.

ITALY, 1954

Our next case isn't as good as Marysville or La Puente, but it has its interest just the same. When Ed Ruppelt left the Air Force and Project Blue Book, he had a split mind on what he wanted to do for a living. He applied to several California aircraft corporations (including the Glenn L. Martin Company, as he was interested in their alleged antigravity research), but his heart seemed to be set on writing. He therefore wrote an article for *True,* "What Our Air Force Found Out about Flying Saucers," May 1954, pp. 18–30, 124–34, which was widely read. One reader was W. E. Kronenburg, who introduced himself as an officer in the Royal Netherlands Army who had been collecting UFO information for some time, with plans of publishing a book. Ruppelt found him sensible and wished for an exchange of information preparatory to his own book. They exchanged letters in late 1954 and 1955. Ruppelt used a few of the sightings Kronenburg sent him in his book. One that he didn't was an angel hair report.

SVELATO IL MISTERO DEI DISCHI VOLANTI

Left: Captain Edward W. Ruppelt. Right: Alberto Perego's 1957 book on flying saucers.

In the great European wave of 1954, attention tends to center upon France, with a nod to Scandinavia and not much else. But in late September and early November, things were intense in Italy as well. These cases featured several claims of angel hair. Britain's *Flying Saucer News*, Fall 1954, introduced English-speaking readers to the event at Florence, Italy, on October 27, 1954, involving a mass sighting at a soccer match. This case then entered all the future lists of angel hair, but unmentioned at this early date are a series of claims for similar phenomena at Rome. These events are harder to pin down, and they seem to get onto lists of angel hair through Charles Maney, who is often not very accurate on dates. Claims of early November angel hair sightings in Rome originated from Alberto Perego, at the time Italian ambassador to the Vatican, and supported by Italian researcher Roberto Pinotti and Gordon Creighton of *Flying Saucer Review*. Some angel hair lists note Perego's sightings and some don't. Not knowing what to believe, and noting some very peculiar UFO beliefs by Perego, who became a long-term presence in Italian ufology, I made the tentative assumption that these cases were generally unsubstantiated and less credible.

They may still be, but Ruppelt's correspondence from Kronenburg opens the door a crack. Here's what Kronenburg says: He had heard of an earlier case from October in Rome, as well as the Florence case, and others. They decided to investigate first-hand. Here's the exact quote:

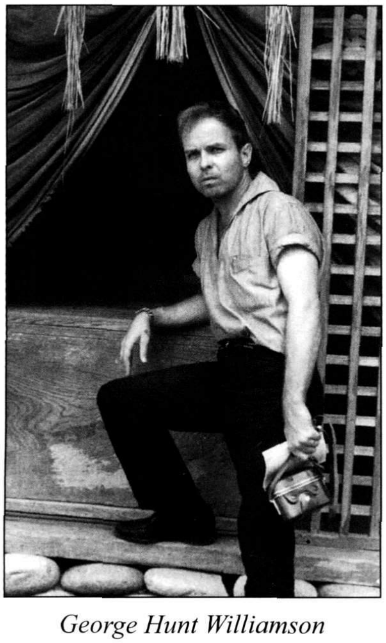
> In reference to that Italian, Rome report of September 19, 1954, several Netherlands newspapers sent reporters to Rome to investigate. One of them reported as follows: "Of course I thought it was mass hysteria, but here follows

> what I myself saw with my own eyes: It was a very fine day, sunny and warm and a clear sky over us. Suddenly a bricklayer in the street shouted ‘saucers, saucers.’ In no time, many people were in the street, scanning the sky and yes, we saw jet fighter condens[ation] streaks in the air, but between those streaks, much higher, I saw a star, or a metallic object that reflected the rays of the bright shining sun. The shining dot in the air stood there motionless, but suddenly it began to move with a speed of a shooting star and disappeared to the East; a moment later we saw something, similar to silk or wool, falling out of the air; it fell like snowflakes; it was found to be a sort of glasswool or spun glass threads. [At] the same moment I thought about similar reports from France and here in Italy, from Florence, in which reports [of] spider web substance were mentioned falling out of the air after saucer-like objects had been seen.

The date of the Dutch reporter’s sightings was later than the ones claimed by Perego, and certainly independent of the others we have heard about. Could they have simply been telling lies and writing entertaining copy? Certainly, but they may not. Without a decent investigation we can’t say much. What we can state is that Kronenburg thought that the Dutch news reporters were reliable, as he sent their story on to Ruppelt. If we can believe those stories, then angel hair falls in Rome in early November seem plausible, and therefore Perego’s otherwise undocumented claims may be true as well. Still, I’ll stick with Marysville, La Puente, and Oloron in France.

George Hunt Williamson

Okay, here’s one that’s really “take it or leave it.” It’s my old buddy George Hunt Williamson, self-delusionist extraordinaire, author of *The Saucers Speak* and *Other Tongues—Other Flesh,* and witness to George Adamski’s meeting with Orthon the Venusian in the Mojave Desert in 1954. Anything from the Williamson manuscript collection threatens to blow your mind and this one is no exception—but it’s fun, so let’s do it.



George Hunt Williamson

Williamson was trying to get his biography written by a friend, and he was constantly musing about his life (something easy for a self-absorbed fellow to do), when an old angel-hair experience he had bubbled up in his consciousness. He then wrote:

> When I was returning after the VISION QUEST successfully completed in 1951 to Chief Spotted Hawk’s home in the Minnesota woods on White Earth Indian Reservation, I started to walk through a large area covered with what I now know to have been “ANGEL’s HAIR” connected with UFO activity! There was a clean line of demarcation—just suddenly the trees, etc., were covered with the stuff, clinging to, and hanging from the branches, leaves, etc. I thought of “spider webs,” but I realized there was far too much of the stuff for that, and it puzzled me greatly at the time. It covered a large area, but I suddenly walked out of it and it stopped abruptly as it has started. . . . When Spotted Hawk met me on the trail a short time later, I asked him about it, described it to him, etc. He only looked long & hard at me and said: “What you observed must remain a mystery to you for now, but I can tell you that it is connected with your vision and with your quest. One day you will know the answer when it is time to know. In the meantime, know that what you saw is *not* new on the earth, but it is an *effect* (caused by a life-energy making a journey and suddenly re-forming in the atmosphere of our planet duplicating an original pattern from its point of origin), created when an intelligence not of earth leaves its world and re-appears instantly in our world. The action of waves creates sea foam . . . in this coming and going of spiritual forces, what we call STAR FOAM (or SPRAY) is created in much the same manner . . . it is the *SPINDRIFT between the worlds* . . . and as spindrift is spray swept by a violent wind along the surface of earth’s seas . . . and comes about by the violent action of the emergence of the spiritual forces into our world.”
>
> I believe this SPINDRIFT BETWEEN THE WORLDS (beautiful explanation or description of ANGEL’S HAIR!!) is a by-product created when UFOs enter or emerge through the GRID POINTS into our dimension (world). Whether or not it has to do with *ionization,* I do not know, but I have observed it several times in connection with sightings and I even have a sample of it which is rare because it usually “melts” or dissolves after a short time.
>
> Notice Marc says he observed it at the 7,000 ft. peak in Nov. 1979, Sierra Nevada Mtns. Extinct volcanic cones as well, and as I said in *OT-OF,* I believe these volcanic cones are in SUB-VORTEXES OF THE EARTH’S MAGNETIC FIELD—we were told such locations of magnetic anomalies were ideal for communication attempts. Psychic ability increases for EVERYONE in such areas!! Marc says, “This ‘rain’ [of] angel hair might have been a property of the grid point itself.” I THINK MARC IS “RIGHT ON”!! . . . WHICH LEADS US TO ASSUME THAT REALLY SUCCESSFUL VISION QUESTING SHOULD BE DONE ON GRID POINTS!!

Rock on, Georgie, there'll never be another one like you! (Exclamation point and article title in honor of GHW.)

Recovering my sanity after that wild ride, could it be that *anything* in these comments is true? I've stated before in articles in *IUR* that I don't think that GHW is a liar in any simple sense—incredibly delusional, yes, and willing to stretch his alleged "credentials" far beyond reality to position himself to receive insider information, yes, but he basically plays true (in his own mind) with the phenomenological stuff. So, maybe he had a Vision Quest experience (though whether materialistic or paranormal we'll never know) and maybe his Ojibwa mentor did say something to him about angel hair. His claimed experience reminds me of the one angel hair experience in the Timmerman Files, where a young girl in Portsmouth, Ohio, in the late 1940s or early 1950s, was in a woods near her home and came across a dense, very localized deposit of angel hair hanging from the tree branches, silvery white and in long strands. The added high strangeness was that she heard "fast speed" voices conversing from above, but otherwise an unusual silence (our now-famous Oz effect). Other confusion set in and she left the area, with little memory of how, in great fear.

One last case, just because I don't see it on the usual lists. The report is from May 1967, near Holbæk, Denmark. The report was printed in Joan Whritenour's *Saucer Scoop* in 1967. (As an aside, I wish that she had continued with the momentum that she was creating with her growing global network of correspondents. Instead, she went off in a book-writing and conspiracy/hostility shouting match with Brad Steiger.) At the time of *Saucer Scoop's* growth it had the potential of becoming a mirror of APRO and she was the intellectual equal of Coral Lorenzen. I say this because I believe that many of her correspondents were good ones, including Willy Olsen, the Dane who sent her this report.

The case is about a farmer who was working outside in the evening. He states, "I was looking out over the fields when I suddenly saw a strange light. It was not a usual light but artificial and *lilac.* I got quite staggered. People did not used to be at that place in the night—then I knew something was happening and I went over there. But midway I suddenly noticed an object. In the darkness it was very difficult to see how it looked."

He reported seeing a dome and some oval windows. Behind them, something seemed to be moving. He then went back home. The next day he returned and found a strange substance: "It looked like cotton wool, but it had a color I've never seen before. It was much, much finer than cotton. I could almost not feel it when I took it in my hands. The color was strong, I cannot say how."

The farmer took a handful of the material and placed a stone over it to mark the spot and preserve it. But that didn't work. The stuff slowly disappeared bit by bit over the next three days. He also noticed a depressed spot where the object had been, and a wire which seemed to have been pulled away from some pylons.

MAKING SENSE OF ALL THIS

So, what's going on with angel hair? Arch debunker Donald Menzel knew, of course. He wrote Maney in 1961 that the answer to the Marysville case was seagulls flying alongside balloon-spider webs, or, he said, maybe spider webs alone, or, he said, maybe some unusual chemical process billowing out of the smokestack of a nearby factory. Maney considered Menzel's suggestions "obviously far-fetched." He replied that if Menzel could take comfort in spider webs, sea gulls, and chemical refuse, go ahead.

Donald Menzel and Col. Robert Friend.

Menzel was quite interested in the angel hair cases, which meant that he was worried about them. Smelled too much of proof, did it Donald? In 1959, he visited Wright-Patterson and quizzed Project Blue Book's Robert Friend and Allen Hynek about it. Friend, fairly new at this, said that the only angel hair case he knew of was one from Georgia, determined by Robins Air Force Base chemists to be due to silver iodide from cloud-seeding. Hynek thought the explanation was spider webs. Friend said that's how they explained it at first, but silver iodide was the real answer.

Menzel asked what other things cause angel hair reports. Friend said factory wastes spewed things like rayon fibers, and things like that happened in an earlier case in Ohio.

Well, that seems to have been enough for Menzel—spider webs or factory waste or maybe some seagulls tossed in for good measure. Yep, that'll explain Marysville, all right. I wonder how well the manufacturers would have sold rayon jackets if they'd have disintegrated under your touch in a few minutes. Perhaps we could have still worn them if we would be willing to spend our time sealed in peanut butter jars. But these otherwise intelligent men, Menzel, and apparently at that time, Friend and Hynek, just went on down their roads comfortable in the belief that they had made sense out of something that couldn't be true, anyway.

Personally, I don't know what angel hair is. I do believe that we make a big mistake in including every odd claim of something falling out of the sky in the category. In my opinion, angel hair should be limited to the cases with silk-like strands of some material *which then dissipates* for no obvious reason over a usually brief time. Dream up other words for other kinds of weird stuff, but keep these disappearing strands in their own box. Of all the types of Close Encounters of the Second Kind, the good, multiwitnessed, true angel-hair incidents are among our strongest support elements in defending the UFO phenomenon as something real. Donald Menzel knew it. That's why he was crazier than usual in his approach against it. ✦

REMARKABLE REPORTS FROM THE MISSILE FIELD

BY ROBERT L. HASTINGS

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"... no UFO reported, investigated, and evaluated by the Air Force has ever given any indication of threat to our national security ..."
—*Project Blue Book, announcing in 1969 the reason for its termination by the Air Force*

It is my contention, as well as that of several other researchers, that a credible link exists between the appearance of nuclear weapons in the mid-1940s and the overall increase in UFO sightings worldwide since that time. Moreover, it is probable that one of the reasons the U.S. government has attempted to conceal its extensive knowledge of the UFO phenomenon from the public relates to its apprehension about acknowledging that unknown observers, piloting enormously superior aerial craft, have been systematically monitoring—and occasionally tampering with—our nuclear weapons.

As incredible as this claim may seem to some, it is nevertheless based on persuasive, documented data. Hundreds of routinely declassified U.S. government documents, as well as those painstakingly pried loose by researchers via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), clearly establish a UFO-nukes link. Moreover, hundreds of ex-military men have slowly but surely come forward to confirm their involvement in, or knowledge of, one UFO-related incident or another at U.S. nuclear weapons sites.

Over the past 35 years, I have interviewed 57 former or retired U.S. military personnel—ranging from retired colonels to former airmen—regarding their direct involvement in such cases. Another 19 ex-military personnel report an indirect knowledge of similar events. Moreover, two retired civilian nuclear weapons specialists, one of them a high-level Atomic Energy Commission supervisor, have also discussed their own UFO sightings at nuke-related installations. In sum, these individuals report nearly 100 extraordinary encounters that have obvious national security implications. In fact, taken to their logical conclusion, the reported incidents have planetary implications, given the horrific consequences for all of mankind should a full-scale, global, nuclear war ever occur.

At the time of their UFO experiences, my former or retired USAF sources held positions ranging from nuclear missile launch-and-targeting officers, to missile maintenance personnel, to missile security police. The incidents described occurred at Malmstrom, Minot, F. E. Warren, Ellsworth, Vandenberg, and Walker Air Force Bases, between 1962 and 1996. Other sources report sightings at Wurtsmith and Loring AFBs, where B-52 nuclear bombers were based during the Cold War era.

Among my sources are retired officers who were, at one time or another, in positions of authority, including one former base commander, one deputy base commander, and three squadron commanders. Admittedly, the testimony these persons provide is anecdotal. Nevertheless, it is offered—sometimes reluctantly—by those who were once entrusted by the U.S. government with the operation or security of weapons of mass destruction. As such, each source was subjected to, and passed, rigorous background checks and personality tests designed to ascertain, with a reasonable degree of certainty, their psychological stability and reliability.

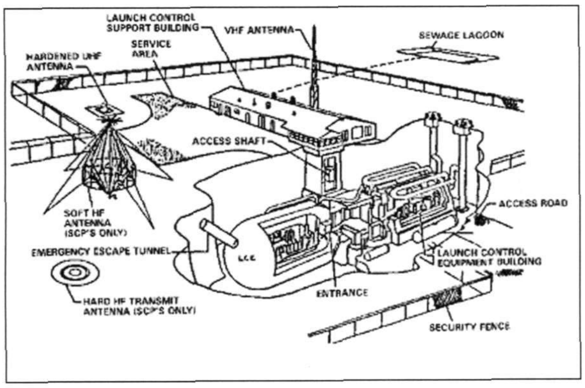
The events described here leave little doubt that our nuclear weapons program is an ongoing source of interest to something possessing vastly superior technology. Significantly, the reported UFO activity occasionally transcends mere surveillance and appears to involve direct and unambiguous *interference* with our strategic weapons systems.

Considering these and similar accounts—too numerous and credible to dismiss—I would argue, as others have before me, that the heightened presence of the UFO phenomenon since the end of World War II is a direct consequence of the advent of the Nuclear Age. To suggest that this is the only explanation for widespread UFO sightings during our own era would be presumptuous, simplistic, and undoubtedly inaccurate. Nevertheless, I believe that the nuclear weapons-related incidents are integral to an understanding of the mystery at hand. The following reports are excerpted from my forthcoming book, *UFOs and Nukes*, scheduled for publication in the summer of 2008.

Robert Hastings, a former semiconductor laboratory analyst, has researched nuclear weapons–related UFO sightings since 1973. Over the last 26 years, he has presented his findings at over 500 colleges and universities nationwide.

TAKING DOWN ECHO AND OSCAR

In March 1967, two spectacular events occurred outside Malmstrom Air Force Base near Great Falls, Montana, which have become the best known ICBM-related UFO incidents on record. According to at least six former or retired U.S. Air


LAUNCH CONTROL SUPPORT BUILDING
VHF ANTENNA
SEWAGE LAGOON
SERVICE AREA
HARDENED UHF ANTENNA
ACCESS SHAFT
ACCESS ROAD
SOFT HF ANTENNA (SCP'S ONLY)
EMERGENCY ESCAPE TUNNEL
LCC
LAUNCH CONTROL EQUIPMENT BUILDING
ENTRANCE
HARD HF TRANSMIT ANTENNA (SCP'S ONLY)
SECURITY FENCE

Underground Minuteman Launch Control Center.

Force officers, UFOs apparently disrupted the functioning of all 10 Minuteman I missiles at the Echo Flight Launch Control Center on March 16, and essentially repeated the feat a short time later, at Oscar Flight LCC, where at least six to eight missiles were simultaneously shut down. (Statements provided to me by former Minuteman Missile Targeting Officer Robert Jamison, suggest a March 24 date for the Oscar incident. However, the leading Malmstrom case researcher, Jim Klotz, correctly notes that no documentation is yet available to assign a date to it.)

Obviously, the two closely spaced UFO-related incidents had an impact on U.S. national security in the most fundamental manner, contradicting the official statement quoted above—relating to *all* UFO activity—later issued by the Air Force in conjunction with Blue Book's termination. Furthermore, Klotz notes that particular official denial was not unique. Concerning UFOs' supposed nonthreat to national security, he says, "The 'UFO Fact Sheet' the Air Force published for years [also makes this claim] so this is not just a lie that was stated *once*, but one that was consistently and constantly promulgated for many years."

The large-scale missile disruptions at Malmstrom, each lasting a day or more, understandably resulted in great concern, extending from the local Air Force commanders to the highest levels of the Strategic Air Command. Not only had a significant number of our nuclear missiles been temporarily compromised, but UFO involvement in the shutdowns was a known fact even at the time, according to Jamison.

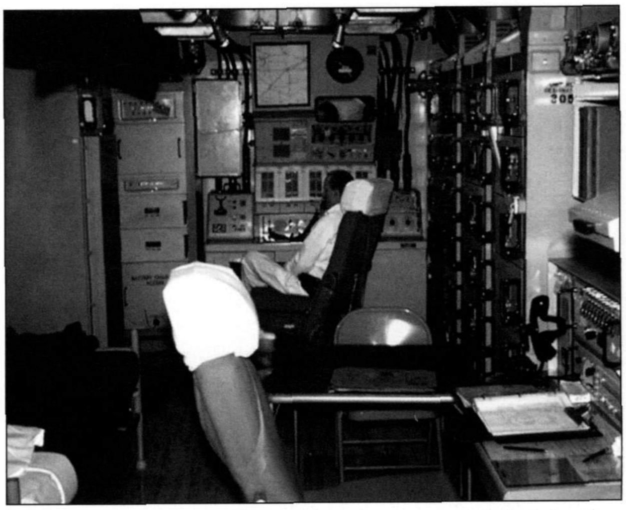
In a 2004 interview, Jamison told me that before being dispatched to restart the stricken missiles, all of the targeting teams had been briefed about the situation. "They then told us what was happening," he recalled, "There had been some UFO activity that had been messing things up." Specific instructions had been given to the teams: "They briefed us on what to do. If we saw a UFO while on the road, [we were to] report it. If we were at the site, [and saw a UFO] we were supposed to get into the silo and close the personnel hatch. So we went out to the site, not only us, but the other teams were out there doing the same work. But I never saw [a UFO]."

Not that any of this was publicly acknowledged by the Air Force. Decades later, in response to a FOIA request submitted by Klotz, SAC did declassify a hundred or so pages of the 341st Missile Wing's unit history, which referenced the Echo Flight missile malfunctions. However, the official history claimed that although UFOs had been reported in the area at the time of the shutdowns, those reports had later proved to be erroneous.[1]

However, the unit historian, David Gamble, later told Klotz that while compiling material for the official history, he had learned of the reports of UFO activity within Malmstrom's missile fields. When he made inquiries, Gamble received "no cooperation" from those in the know. He further told Klotz that written changes regarding "the UFO aspect of the missile shutdown incident" had been made by superiors. That would indeed appear to be the case. The final version of the unit history states, "Rumors of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) around the area of Echo Flight during the time of the fault were disproven."

In the early 1980s, I attempted to access, via the Freedom of Information Act, Office of Special Investigations (OSI) files pertaining to the UFO-related incidents at Malmstrom's ICBM sites—as well as those at missile facilities on other SAC bases—only to be tersely told that all such documents had already been declassified. However, as Jim Klotz and I both know, multiple-source testimony we have taken strongly suggests otherwise. I think David Gamble's comments above are telling. In my opinion, the documents that might shed light on the facts relating to the missile shutdowns will remain hidden indefinitely, whereas those supporting the official version of events, including unit histories, will sometimes be declassified.

In any event, regarding the Malmstrom cases, a number



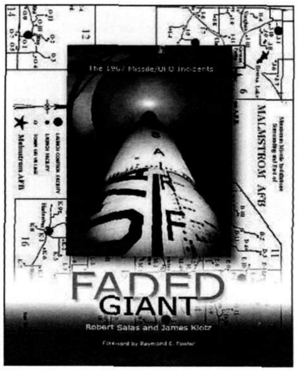
A Minuteman I Launch Control Center (LCC). Missile combat crews provided command and control for the Minuteman system from these underground work centers, manned 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, which are geographically separated from the missiles in the crew's flight area. Photo: Malmstrom AFB.

of former or retired Air Force personnel—who were actually on the scene at the time—continue to dispute the official USAF assertion of no UFO involvement in the Echo Flight shutdowns. Moreover, engineering reports released to Klotz through FOIA confirm that Boeing missile system specialists, brought in to ascertain the nature of the malfunctions, could not say with certainty what had caused them. Also noteworthy: The Air Force continues to be disingenuous on the subject of the Oscar Flight shutdown. Officially, it never happened. Regardless, both of the missile launch officers who were involved in the incident have now offered on-the-record testimony to the contrary.

One of them, former U.S. Air Force Capt. Robert Salas (left), had been on duty in the underground launch capsule when he received a frantic call from one of his guards topside, saying that a UFO was hovering at low altitude above the gate of the Oscar Flight Launch Control Center. Seconds later, even before Salas could utter an incredulous response, Oscar Flight's missiles began to malfunction, with at least six or eight of them "dropping off alert status," as the Air Force refers to it.[2] After the incident, Salas and his commander, Fred Meiwald, were whisked by helicopter back to Malmstrom and debriefed by an OSI agent. They were told never to discuss the incident again, even among themselves, and told that the incident had been classified Secret.

Salas began to openly discuss the Oscar incident in 1995, and was later invited to address the National Press Club. He recently told me, "I made a conscious decision to go public after we received the documents declassifying Echo. I thought I had been at Echo during my incident, since the circumstances were similar. It was only later that I learned I was at Oscar, and by then I was already public."[3] Regardless, Salas believes that, decades after the fact, the public's right to know trumps ongoing U.S. government secrecy about UFO involvement in the missile shutdowns. Consequently, he has made himself available to speak at public gatherings, including the 2007 International MUFON UFO Symposium. In January 2008, Salas appeared on *Larry King Live* after one of King's producers asked me to recommend a former U.S. Air Force source who could credibly discuss UFO incidents at nuclear weapon sites.

Over the last decade, Salas has extensively investigated the incident at Oscar, together with Jim Klotz—who has located and interviewed dozens of witnesses and other persons with a knowledge of the case, in addition to filing numerous FOIA requests—in an effort to force the declassification of additional pertinent documents. Their revealing article on the events of March 1967, titled "The Malmstrom AFB UFO/Missile Incident," was published online in 1996. More recently, Salas and Klotz have written a thorough and persuasive book, *Faded Giant*, which greatly expands on the article and links the incidents at Malmstrom with similar UFO sightings occurring several months earlier at Minot AFB, North Dakota.


The 1967 Missile/UFO Incidents
FADED GIANT
Robert Salas and James Klotz
Foreword by Raymond E. Fowler
MALMSTROM AFB

(In addition to Jamison, I also have interviewed several former and retired USAF personnel regarding UFO-related incidents at Malmstrom AFB, not only in 1967, but during other eras as well. Their full statements are published in my book.)

The full-flight missile shutdown incidents at Malmstrom AFB cannot have been the result of some U.S. war game exercise. After this dubious scenario was proposed by a few UFO debunkers a while ago in an attempt to explain away the incidents, a number of ex-Air Force nuclear missile personnel came forward to strenuously object to the notion, pointing out that one does not, under any circumstances, intentionally degrade—shut down—one's strategic weapons systems, even for a day, for war games.

THE AUGUST SPECTACLE

As noted above, Malmstrom was not the only ICBM base to experience intense UFO activity during the 1960s. My investigation of another brief but spectacular burst at F. E. Warren AFB, near Cheyenne, Wyoming, has resulted in three former nuclear missile launch officers and two former security policemen going on the record regarding the events that occurred there.

Beginning at 1:30 a.m. on August 1, 1965, various personnel at F. E. Warren—including the base commander—telephoned the Air Force's UFO Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson AFB to report several UFOs near the base's Minuteman Launch Control Facilities (LCFs) designated Echo (E), Golf (G), and Quebec (Q), and at Launch Facilities (LFs or silos) designated B-4, E-2, G-1, and H-2.

Convair SM-65 Atlas ICBMs in firing position at Launch Site A, Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, the nation's first fully operational missile base, 1960.

The officer on duty at Blue Book that night was a Lt. Anspaugh (first name unknown), who carefully logged the flurry of incoming calls. Shortly thereafter, an official internal memorandum was written which summarized the information that had been reported to him. Following the closure of Project Blue Book four years later, the contents of the memo were published in 1972 by J. Allen Hynek, who had served as the civilian scientific consultant to the project at the time of the sightings.[4]

The significance of this Air Force telephone log can not be understated. It documents a series of stunning UFO sightings by various individuals stationed at the missile base, including several security guards posted at Warren's ICBM sites.

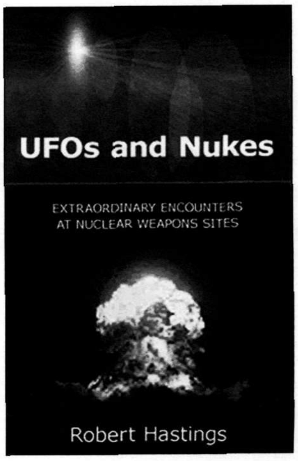
The log entries:

> 1:30 a.m.—Captain Snelling, of the U.S. Air Force command post near Cheyenne, Wyoming, called to say that 15 to 20 phone calls had been received at the local radio station about a large circular object emitting several colors but no sound, sighted over the city. Two officers and one airman controller at the base reported that after being sighted directly over base operations, the object had begun to move rapidly to the northeast.
>
> 2:20 a.m.—Colonel Johnson, base commander of Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, near Cheyenne, Wyoming, called [Blue Book] to say that the commanding officer of the Sioux Army Depot saw five objects at 1:45 a.m. and reported an alleged configuration of two UFOs previously reported over E Site. At 1:49 a.m. members of E flight reportedly saw what appeared to be the same [formation] reported at 1:48 a.m. by G flight. Two security teams were dispatched from E flight to investigate.
>
> 2:50 a.m.—Nine more UFOs were sighted, and at 3:35 a.m. Colonel Williams, commanding officer of the Sioux Army Depot, at Sydney, Nebraska, reported five UFOs going east.
>
> 4:05 a.m.—Colonel Johnson made another phone call to [Blue Book] to say that at 4:00 a.m., Q flight reported nine UFOs in sight: four to the northwest, three to the northeast, and two over Cheyenne.
>
> 4:40 a.m.—Captain Howell, Air Force Command Post, called [Blue Book] and Defense Intelligence Agency to report that a Strategic Air Command Team at Site H-2 at 3:00 a.m. reported a white oval UFO directly overhead. Later Strategic Air Command Post passed the following: Francis E. Warren Air Force Base reports (Site B-4), 3:17 a.m.—A UFO 90 miles east of Cheyenne at a high rate of speed and descending—oval and white with white lines on its sides and a flashing red light in its center moving east; reported to have landed 10 miles east of the site. 3:20 a.m.—Seven UFOs reported east of the site. 3:25 a.m.—E Site reported six UFOs stacked vertically. 3:27 a.m.—G-1 reported one ascending and at the same time, E-2 reported two additional UFOs had joined the seven for a total of nine. 3:28 a.m.—G-1 reported a UFO descending further, going east. 3:32 a.m.—The same site has a UFO climbing and leveling off. 3:40 a.m.—G Site reported one UFO at 70° azimuth and one at 120°. Three now came from the east, stacked vertically, passed through the other two, with all five heading west.

This Blue Book memorandum reveals, in dramatic detail, the extraordinary nature of the incidents. The sheer scope and blatant ostentation of the UFOs' reported aerial displays is simply astonishing. Several widely separated Air Force security police teams operating in F. E. Warren's missile field had independently observed up to nine UFOs in a group as they cavorted in the sky and intermittently hovered above various Minuteman launch facilities and launch control facilities.

Two of those teams, positioned several miles apart, had reported the objects to be oval-shaped, while other observers in the city of Cheyenne had reported a "circular" UFO. Furthermore, two base commanders—Colonel Robert Johnson at Warren AFB, and a Colonel Williams at the Sioux Army Depot—had been among those who had reported the sightings to Project Blue Book.

When Blue Book's former scientific consultant, J. Allen Hynek, published these telephone log entries in his 1972 book, *The UFO Experience: A Scientific Inquiry*, he also revealed that he had once asked the project's chief about the ICBM-related sighting reports referenced in it. He wrote, "When I asked Major Quintinilla what was being done about investigating these reports, he said that the sightings were nothing but stars! This is certainly tantamount to saying that our Strategic Air Command, responsible for the defense of our country against major attacks from the air, was staffed



Robert Hastings's new book, *UFOs and Nukes: Extraordinary Encounters at Nuclear Weapons Sites,* is available for $23.95 (plus $4.95 p&h) from: ufohastings.com

Did those who pilot UFOs monitor the superpowers' nuclear arms race during the dangerous Cold War era? Do they still scrutinize American and Russian nuclear weapons sites? *UFOs and Nukes* provides the startling and sometimes shocking answers to these questions.

by a notable set of incompetents who mistook twinkling stars for strange craft."[5]

Given the wealth of detail about the rapidly maneuvering and sometimes hovering aerial objects mentioned in Lt. Anspaugh's notes, this explanation was patently absurd, and Hynek's annoyance at the remark is obvious. Regrettably, the "stars" answer offered by Maj. Quintinilla was a typical example of the innumerable dubious rationalizations and inadequate solutions offered by Project Blue Book over the years, for what were arguably legitimate UFO sightings.

In any event, the Anspaugh memorandum later published by Hynek is not the only source of credible information about UFO sightings at F. E. Warren AFB in the summer of 1965. I have interviewed two former Minuteman missile launch officers—formally known as missile combat crew commanders, or deputy commanders—who served at the base during that year, Richard Tashner and Jay Earnshaw. Each of them made some remarkable statements about the UFO incidents, and the manner in which the Air Force handled them.

In September 2002, the Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFM) published an article of mine in its newsletter, in which I first summarized my research and then requested other former nuclear missile personnel to contact me with their own UFO experiences. In response, I received an email from AAFM member Capt. Richard E. Tashner (USAF Ret.), in which he described his UFO encounter at F. E. Warren AFB in the late 1960s. I later interviewed him by telephone. I have combined his comments here.

Tashner told me, "I was stationed at F. E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne, Wyoming, from December 1964 through June 1969. Initially, I was a deputy missile launch officer assigned to the 320th Strategic Missile Squadron, but when I upgraded to missile commander, I was transferred to the 319th SMS. I do remember one time when we had to send in reports to SAC Headquarters about UFO sightings in the area. At the time, I was in a [launch] capsule near Sydney, Nebraska. I think I was in the Golf [Flight] capsule. Of course, I did not personally see anything as I was underground. I did take the information from various individuals . . . including the Security Alert Teams, and some people upstairs [in the Launch Control Facility]."

Minuteman I Launch Control Center under construction.

Tashner continued, "My reports were all made to the Wing Command Post at F. E. Warren, and they would relay them to SAC HQ. Most communications back and forth from Wing to SAC could be heard in each LCF so the crew would be aware of developing situations. Every time one of my guards called down to report that the UFOs had moved closer or further away, or whatever, I updated SAC. I made four or five calls to the command post that night. I remember there were so many reports coming in to them—not only from me but lots of [launch officers]—that SAC decided to cut off all report calls. They were required [to be submitted as] written reports the next day. There were also sightings around the Cheyenne area the same night. There were no interceptors around to chase the UFOs because F. E. Warren had no runway or planes. I wish I could remember the actual date for you, but I've forgotten long ago."

I asked Tashner if he had been on alert duty in August 1965. He thought a few moments and said, "Yes, I was. I was a deputy [missile] commander back then." I then described the contents of the Blue Book memo and offered to email a copy to him.

He responded, "Well, that sounds like the incident I witnessed. I know that the commander of the Sydney depot made several reports that night. Now looking back, I think I remember talking to him myself and took his report. I think I also gave him the Wing Command Post number for him to call for verification. That's probably how he got the Project Blue Book number. My own guards kept calling down to report strange lights moving around the sky, sort of like aircraft lights but not quite. One of them told me he saw one light do a 90-degree turn. I was very skeptical, but I didn't see it myself, of course, so I don't know. Actually, at first, the calls were kind of fun, you know, out of the ordinary. But as more of them came in, it got very spooky."

I asked Tashner whether he had been debriefed by OSI or other investigators. He responded, "I do not know of anyone being interviewed by the OSI or being told not to talk about the experience."

I then asked if the functionality of the Minuteman missiles had been inexplicably compromised during the period of UFO activity. Tashner replied, "I do not remember the effect it had on missile alert." I pressed the point and asked if he had later heard any rumors about missiles malfunctioning at a time when UFOs were in their vicinity. He replied, "No, I never heard anything about that. I know that my own missiles were not adversely affected."

Tashner recommended that I contact two other former Minuteman launch officers who had been at F. E. Warren during his tour there: Jay Earnshaw and Larry Johnson. This fortuitous suggestion would result in my speaking with one of the missile launch officers who had been directly involved in one of the more dramatic incidents mentioned in the memorandum written by Lt. Anspaugh. And he would have some remarkable things to say.

During a telephone interview, Earnshaw told me, "I was a captain, a missile combat crew commander or, early on, a deputy commander, primarily at Echo Flight. Between 1965 and 1968, except for assignments overseas, I was with all three squadrons at Warren—the 319th, the 320th, and the 321st. Echo was assigned to the 319th. We did have [UFO] sightings at Echo Flight. There were times that our security forces up above would report strange things. Lights in the sky. Because I was a missile commander, the security people were required to call down to the capsule and report anything unusual going on up there. The information we got about the UFOs was that none of them came inside the fenced area [around the Echo Launch Control Facility], and none of them touched down in the area outside the fence. As reported by the on-duty security controller, the [unexplained] lights visible from Echo Flight would have extended from the northwest to the southeast. So they were all just strange aerial lights, making no noise, that would *stack on top of one another* [my emphasis] and then just disappear."

I asked Earnshaw if he could recall any specific description of the aerial lights. He said, "The security people described them as oblong or, from the correct perspective, disclike. No reported markings or navigation lights. If a color was reported, it was usually reddish or orangeish shades. They were reported as 'aloft' or 'up in the air' but I don't recall any mention of altitude—no reliable estimated distance other than 'close.'"

He continued, "At first, I thought of temperature inversions because I'm technically oriented. I'm a pilot and I know that the atmosphere can create illusions [involving refracted lights that appear nearby but are actually miles away]. I tend to hold things off at arm's length and consider all of the possibilities."

I asked Earnshaw about the approximate time frame for those incidents. He responded, "The sightings at Echo were around 1965, '66, '67—probably more around the beginning of that period and tapering off around the end. There were times when that went on at more than one [launch control] site. They were not reported during daylight hours."

Earnshaw then said, "There was a continuing ruckus about those kinds of sightings and, ultimately, we were told by the Operations Branch officers to ignore them. As everything is 'down-channel' in the military, they themselves were probably told by the squadron commanders who, in turn, were probably advised by the 'Wing King' to stifle the 'ridiculous' reports, and he was probably directed by SAC [Headquarters] to pass that along to the launch officers. They told us that UFOs had been officially disavowed by Project Blue Book, that they had turned out to be swamp gas and weather balloons and all that jazz. After a while, [the launch commanders] started saying, 'Well, it's going to affect my OER (Officer Efficiency Report) if I keep insisting on this.' We were led to believe that if we continued to report those sightings, it would lead to a loss of our credibility. So, instead of notifying the Wing Command Post, we just started logging those reports down and then never heard another thing about it."

Earnshaw added, "I heard that OSI was debriefing people. OSI was charged with doing whatever the commanders above them wanted done. That was one of the reasons why we didn't want to report the sightings—we didn't want to get involved with OSI. You never knew what could happen to you should *they* start looking into your professional and personal lives. Even an innocent can spend a great deal of his precious off-duty time giving statements, and so on. Also, even though they were not officially allowed into your OER's, the crews knew that OSI questions, and the answers you might give, could seriously sway the commanders' rating your performance reports."

I asked Earnshaw to estimate the number of UFO-related calls he had received from the security police topside at Echo. He said, "There were a few. It wasn't a multitude of calls. Those calls were eventually discouraged by higher command, as I mentioned a moment ago. There was a lot of pressure by Blue Book to keep this under wraps and, you know, they were saying publicly that there was nothing to [UFOs] and all that. But [among the missile launch commanders] there were reports by word of mouth. The sightings of 1 August [1965] that you mentioned a moment ago, I heard about those. But it was one of those things that was never officially acknowledged. I heard about it through scuttlebutt and, sometimes, scuttlebutt is the best A-number one source [of information], particularly in situations where the primary concern is security."

Earnshaw then said firmly, "But we got reports from our security people that there were objects in the sky stacked up, one on top of the other, just hovering there. The Russians sure didn't have the capability to do that! So that leaves only one other possibility. I am one who believes that we are not the only ones in the universe and, well, I think someone might have been interested in what we were doing at our [nuclear missile] sites. I wasn't one of the witnesses to these events, because I was underground in the capsule, but my second-hand information from the security people up above was that the objects were really there."

Although Earnshaw said that he had only heard about the incidents of August 1, 1965, I quickly wondered if that was correct. I am aware of only two reported sighting incidents—at any SAC base, during any era—during which the Air or Security Police had reported UFOs "stacked" above a Launch Control Facility, and both of those occurred at F. E. Warren AFB, on August 1, 1965. More to the point, one of the reports was at the Echo Flight LCF, where Earnshaw usually pulled alert duty. As noted above, the Blue Book telephone log compiled by Lt. Anspaugh had stated. "3:25 a.m.—[Echo] Site reported six UFOs stacked vertically."

I told Earnshaw that because the SPs had told him that the UFOs were stacked up over Echo during one of the incidents, I was inclined to believe that he may have actually been in the launch capsule for the August 1 event. He replied, "I guess it could've been. I pulled alert there that month too, as well as [during most of] '66 and '68, as I previously mentioned."

I asked Earnshaw if he recalled hearing scuttlebutt about missiles dropping off alert status at a time when UFOs were in the vicinity of a given missile flight. He paused a while and then said, "Well, of course, we would often have a missile go off alert, but not in any unusual way. The guidance system wouldn't spin up right, for one reason or another. But, yes, I heard reports like that—of [several] missiles going off alert simultaneously [during the UFO incidents]—but I wasn't privy to the big picture, only the narrow one. Nothing like that happened at Echo when I was there." I quickly pressed for details about the reports he had heard. After another pause, Earnshaw said somewhat warily, "It was a long time ago, and what I heard was second-hand." It seemed clear that this particular line of questioning would elicit no more useful information, for one reason or another.

At the end of the conversation, once I had Earnshaw's testimony on record, I told him about the two UFO-related, large-scale missile shutdowns at Malmstrom AFB in March 1967. Obviously surprised, he responded, "Really?! Twice? Wow! That's a national security situation!"

I thanked Earnshaw for allowing me to publish his comments and told him I strongly believed that this kind of information should finally be in the public record. He responded, "I couldn't agree with you more."

In 2002, I interviewed former Air Force Security Policeman (SP) Terry Stuck, who related similar experiences near F. E. Warren AFB in "late summer of 1965." Stuck had reported for duty at the Oscar Flight LCF one morning, and was informed about a UFO sighting by the departing night-shift guards. "The night team had observed fast-moving lights or objects," said Stuck, "vehicles moving with incredible speed." Apparently, during the shift change, the departing security team leader also informed the arriving missile commander about the UFOs. Stuck overheard the exchange. "The OIC (Officer in Charge) was a captain. I don't recall his name," said Stuck, "I do remember him saying that he had been a pilot in Korea and had observed UFOs and had reported the incident. He said they had sent him to the base psychiatrist and had basically put a stop on advancements in his career."

The moral of this story was clear to Stuck and the departing security team leader: Be careful what you report, because there may be repercussions. Stuck did not know whether the team leader had ever filed an official report about the incident. In any event, the Oscar Flight UFO sighting incident is not mentioned in the Project Blue Book memorandum quoted above. Perhaps it took place on another date during that period or, perhaps, it did indeed occur on August 1, but went unreported.

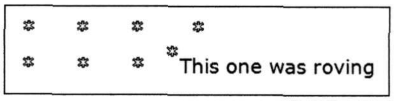
A few days after these events, Stuck had his own UFO sighting, again at the Oscar Flight LCF. "The observations," he recalled, "were actually made in front of the launch control security facility which was at ground level, facing the access gate of the main launch control facility. I was never able to determine the size or shapes [of the UFOs]. When I saw them, they were at extreme distances and were doing right[-angle] turns at unbelievable speeds. I never heard any sounds."

Another UFO report at F. E. Warren during that period appears in the National Institute for Discovery Science sighting database.[6] The report was filed by an unidentified individual who had seen a UFO in the Foxtrot Flight area on an unspecified date in August 1965. Although the source remains anonymous, because the sighting occurred within the missile field itself, he was probably an Air Force security policeman. The witness reports observing a dark boomerang-shaped object with two yellow lights, one on each wingtip. He wrote, "When it took off it went so fast that the lights on the ends appeared as two continuous streaks of light for an instant." The UFO was described as silent and "very big."

A third Air Force Security Policeman, Bob Thompson, has reported seeing UFOs in F. E. Warren's missile fields. My interview with him, in 2004, was most interesting, to say the least. In fact, as was the case with Jay Earnshaw's report, the incident described by the SP may well be one of the sightings mentioned in Lt. Anspaugh's memorandum.

In 1965, Airman Second Class Robert Thompson was assigned to the 809th Combat Defense Squadron, at F. E. Warren AFB. He guarded the Quebec Flight Launch Control Facility (LCF), which controlled 10 Minuteman I nuclear missiles, poised underground in launch facilities, commonly known as silos. While on duty one night, he suddenly got a call from the LCF's missile combat crew commander, asking him and his partner to walk outside and look straight up.

"The launch crew in the capsule, and the guards topside, played practical jokes on one another quite often," Thompson recalled, "When the commander called for us to step outside and look straight up, I thought that it was another joke." However, as soon as he did so, Thompson's attitude instantly changed. Directly overhead, he saw eight stationary lights, much brighter and larger than stars, grouped together in four pairs. Due to their altitude and brilliance, it was not possible to determine the objects' shape or other details.



Bob Thompson's drawing

After a few moments, one light left its position and began to roam among the others, moving slowly from pair to pair. Thompson and his partner watched the mysterious aerial formation for about 10 minutes, before reporting the sighting to the missile commander. In response, Thompson was informed that NORAD, then located at Ent AFB, Colorado, had earlier notified F. E. Warren that its radars were tracking eight unknown objects hovering in the vicinity of the Quebec launch control site. Apparently, the base's Command Center had called the LCF and asked the missile commander to verify their presence.

Said Thompson, "I wasn't sure what we were seeing until I reported back to the launch commander. When he told

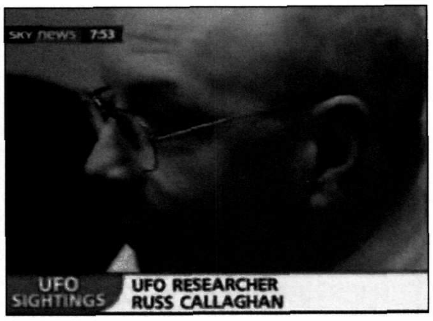
(continued on page 23)

ALIEN AUTOPSY FILM, R.I.P.

BY PHILIP MANTLE

It was 1993 when London businessman Ray Santilli first contacted me. Two years later, Santilli's controversial "alien autopsy film" was released around the world. I have covered events surrounding this film in many publications around the world and in my book *Alien Autopsy Inquest.* Please forgive me if I don't cover old ground here.

On June 22, 2007, I took a train to London to meet Ray Santilli and his business partner Gary Shoefield. Over a pleasant lunch, Santilli showed me some frames of film encased in a type of Perspex material (acrylic glass). Santilli claimed these were original, vintage 1947 frames of film from the alien autopsy. Since they came with no official seal of approval, nor had they been authenticated by anyone, they were useless.



Within a couple of days of this meeting, my friend and colleague Russel Callaghan, editor of *UFO Data* magazine, received a phone call from a man who identified himself as Spyros Melaris. Melaris, who said he was a magician and filmmaker, alleged that he had led the team that faked the autopsy film. He gave Callaghan a rundown of the who, what, why, and where. Callagahn notified me of this development soon afterwards. When I spoke with Melaris myself, he provided further details. During the next few weeks we spoke further over the phone. I put him in contact with American TV producer Robert Kiviat at his request. Melaris was mulling over the most effective way to go public with his story. He had a book in mind and thought that a TV documentary might also be a good idea.

Along with my colleagues Callaghan, Michael Buckley, and Steve Johnston, I was one of the co-organizers of the *UFO Data* annual conference. It just so happened that the 2007 conference had a loose Roswell theme to commemorate the incident's 60th anniversary. We discussed the possibility of asking Melaris to make his first public statement at our conference, and eventually he agreed.

The conference was held the weekend of October 20–21 in Pontefract, West Yorkshire. A packed audience saw Melaris take the stage on the latter date. I had met him in person for the first time the night before at the hotel, and I made informal arrangements to interview him at his home later in the year. As promised, Melaris took to the stage and told of his involvement in the making of the alien-autopsy film.

On November 16, my partner Christine and I drove to Melaris's house in Hertfordshire. Before the formal audiotaped interview began, we had lunch with Melaris and his wife Anne. As we were eating, Melaris showed us some of the documentary evidence he has to support his claims. This included his diary from 1995, hand-drawn sketches of the alien, a full list of hand-painted storyboard images of the film, original fax messages from Kodak in the United States providing copies of 1947 film canister labels, and a large portfolio of research material. This last consisted mainly of vintage 1940s U.S. military vehicles and some vintage military medical photographs. Though the interview itself lasted around two hours, we were not able to cover everything.

A transcript is on online at www.outtahear.com/beyond_updates/autopsy.html. I would like to thank my colleague Steve Johnston for transcribing this interview in full. What follows is based on that interview.

WHO IS SPYROS MELARIS?

Spyros Melaris

Melaris was born in Cyprus. As a boy he was taught a magic trick by his grandfather and from that experience grew to love magic. Growing up in the United Kingdom, he found another passion—filmmaking. At school, he told his careers officer that he wanted to be an actor, but he received no encouragement. So he took a proper job and after leaving

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Philip Mantle is an active British ufologist, writer, editor, lecturer, and investigator.

school became an apprentice motor mechanic. However, his love of magic and filmmaking eventually won over, and in due course he became a magician and a filmmaker. He now owns his own TV studio in London and makes TV shows for all the major networks in the U.K. and independent production companies. He says, "We make programs for anyone who books us."

HOW HE MET SANTILLI

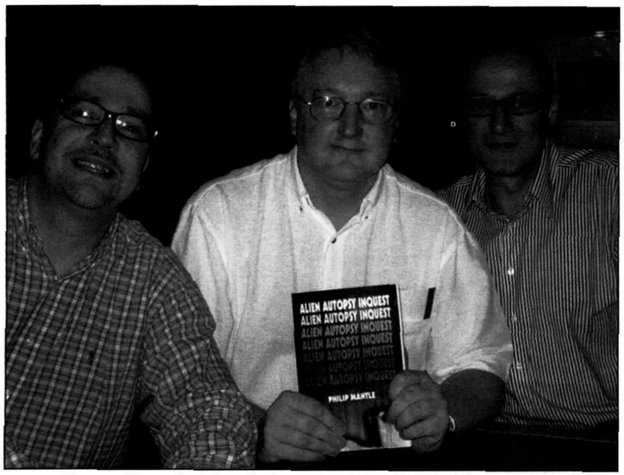
In January 1995, Melaris was to attend the MIDEM music industry trade fair in Cannes, France. He was taking a film crew there and had some spare time on his hands, so he sent fax messages to four production companies picked at random from a media directory, inquiring if they wanted to hire him and his crew while in Cannes.

One of these happened to be the Merlin Group owned by Ray Santilli. Melaris and Santilli had a few telephone conversations and arranged to meet in Cannes. By pure chance they bumped into each other at a restaurant there. It was here that Santilli first told Melaris that he had obtained film footage of an alien. Asked if he were serious, Santilli insisted he was; not only that, he wanted Melaris to make a documentary from this footage. They agreed to meet at Santilli's office in London.

A few days later in London, he met an almost distraught Santilli, who told him he'd bought this film but it had turned out to be very poor quality. Melaris was shown what has become known as the "tent footage," which he recognized had been shot on video. The tape he was shown was on VHS format. Santilli seemed surprised that he had identified it as video so quickly. He realized the game was up.

A FAKE FILM'S GENESIS

John Humphreys is a Royal Academy–trained sculptor whose work had sometimes overlapped into film and TV special effects. Melaris and Humphreys, who have known each other for a long time, had worked together on a number of projects in the past. Melaris asked Humphreys if he'd like to sculpt an alien, then explained the question by recounting his meeting with Santilli. The two agreed that the Santilli project might help them break into other projects, even Hollywood. The idea was to make it, release it to the world, and then release a second show shortly afterwards, demonstrating how they did it.



Gary Shoefield, Philip Mantle, and Ray Santilli.

After Humphreys agreed, Melaris pitched the idea to Santilli, who quickly agreed. The budget put forward by Melaris was about £30,000. Santilli's business partner and friend Volker Spielberg put up the money. Soon the funding was in place, and contracts and a confidentiality agreement were signed.

THE TEAM BEHIND THE FILM

Melaris designed and directed the film and instructed and paid the rest of the team. He constructed the autopsy table along with many of the other props. He also made the "contamination suits." The main researcher behind it all was Melaris's then-girlfriend Geraldine, who checked the medical books, spoke with surgeons and pathologists, and even played the part of the nurse in the film. (Geraldine is a pseudonym; she wishes to remain anonymous.) Humphreys created the alien's bodies, taking the mold from his 10-year-old son who was taller than average. As a trained sculptor, Humphreys had also studied anatomy, so he played the surgeon in the film.

Another friend of Melaris's, Greg Simmons, was seen occasionally in the film in one of the contamination suits. Gareth Watson, a colleague of Santilli's, appeared in a surgical mask. Melaris's brother Peter helped behind the scenes. The set was built in Geraldine's house in Camden in London. The property was in the process of being converted into three flats (apartments) at the time and was therefore empty. The props came from a woman Melaris knew in the United States. She was not told what they were for and were all ordered separately and delivered to different addresses so as not to arouse suspicion.

WHY THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE FILMS

The first alien autopsy film went pretty much as planned. Upon completion, however, Geraldine noticed that a few of the medical procedures were not correct. The production crew was forced to make another creature and create a new film. Santilli was out of money at this stage, but Melaris paid for the second film. There were some technical problems. The foam latex used to fill the dummy had not worked right, for example, and an air bubble had left a hollow hole in the creature's leg. Humphreys was dispatched to the local butcher shop to get a leg joint of a sheep. The joint was inserted into the hollow part in the right, a few other things were added, the outside of the leg was gently burned with a blowtorch, producing—presto!—the leg wound. Animal organs were used for the alien's innards, though altered with a scalpel and coated with latex. The alien's brain was concocted from three sheep's brains and part of a pig's brain cast in gelatine. This is how there came to be two separate autopsy films, but only one, the second, has been released in its entirety.

THE WRECKAGE AND I-BEAMS

Melaris created the "alien writing" from Greek lettering, ancient Egyptian stylizing, and his own artistic license. (Humphreys then manufactured the wreckage.) The writing on the main large beam, if translated correctly, reads "Freedom." He thought this a fitting name for an alien spacecraft. While designing the letters that spell Freedom, Melaris noticed that if the word is turned upside down, the word "Video" could be discerned. He adjusted some of the letters to better facilitate this reading, so the piece would throw a little red herring into the mix. The translation of the smaller beam is being held back for his book.

THE HOME VIDEO INTERVIEW

According to Melaris, various parties put Santilli under a lot of pressure to arrange an interview with the cameraman from whom he allegedly bought the film. Since no such man existed, Melaris flew to Los Angeles and met Santilli's partner Gary Shoefield. Melaris wanted to find an 80-year-old homeless man whom he could pay a few hundred dollars, put in front of a camera, and ask to read from a script.

Santilli and Shoefield were nervous, not sure this would work, but Melaris was confident he could pull this off. He found a homeless man, whom he offered $500 and a night in the hotel. By pure chance, it happened that the man had been an actor many years ago. Melaris took his name and the name of a movie he had appeared in. These details will be released in his book. He cleaned him up, gave him a shave, and added a bit of makeup and a false prosthetic nose and chin. The man himself did not know what he was reading or where it was going to be used. There was little chance that he would see the broadcast either. No one would recognize him.

Shoefield and an individual claiming to be the cameraman's son delivered the film in person to New York television producer Bob Kiviat. Eventually, the film was broadcast in Japan, and from there it was copied and distributed to UFO researchers around the world.

THE CRASH SITE

Many people believe the alien autopsy film is authentic, less from the film itself than from the detailed crash site. Santilli released details, supposedly supplied by his cameraman, about where the incident took place. In reality, the details came from Melaris's 1995 visit to the Roswell area, where he interviewed locals and flew over the three alleged UFO-crash sites, filming all the while.

Private pilot Rodney Corn pointed out a great deal from the air, providing far better perspective than would have been possible from ground level. Melaris was able to observe small dirt roads and long-forgotten landmarks. He also obtained both old and new maps of the area. All of this information was provided to Santilli, who then put it together to invent a location for a nonexistent crash site.

THE GRAND PLAN

Melaris, Santilli, and their associates were confident that the film would withstand skeptical scrutiny. After it had caused widespread bamboozlement, they would tell all in a few months' time. The reason this didn't happen was simple: money. Melaris had signed a confidentiality agreement with Santilli, who adamantly insisted that he needed to recoup his initial investment before they went public. Santilli reminded Melaris that he was bound by the confidentiality agreement and he was not to say or do anything until Santilli said so. Apart from a check for about £10,000, which Melaris split with his team, no royalties were ever paid. Eventually, as time passed, he just got on with life. He continued to work on other projects with Santilli, and the autopsy film was all but forgotten.

GOING PUBLIC

Why did it take Melaris so long to go public? When we spoke, it had been 12 years since the autopsy film hit the headlines. Melaris told me he stuck to his confidentiality agreement. From a legal point of view, if he broke it he could have been sued. In 2005, however, Santilli and Shoefield approached him to revive the matter in a movie. When he asked if they would now tell the true story, they said no. Santilli and Shoefield claimed they were doing it for "a bit of fun," not for money; but when pressed they admitted that they would get paid a percentage of the profits. None of that money would go to Melaris. Understandably, he declined their offer. He left that meeting under the impression that the movie was not going to be made. However, Warner Bros. did release the film in 2006 as *Alien Autopsy.* Thus, Melaris felt that he was now able to speak since the story was in the public domain.

THE DOUBTERS

To round off the interview, I asked Melaris what he had to say to the doubters out there, those who believe the alien autopsy film is the genuine article. I'm not going to paraphrase this; instead I will use his words in full:

> *Philip Mantle:* There are those out there who believe in this film and Santilli 100% and they think that you're some kind of pathological liar, playing devil's advocate here, so please don't be offended.
>
> *Spyros Melaris:* No. Go ahead.
>
> *PM:* What would you say if you could say one thing to the doubters out there? Is there any one thing that you can say that would say to them Spyros Melaris is who he says he is and has made this film?
>
> *SM:* I don't think that there's any doubt that somebody made it today. That's fair to say that somebody made the film and even Santilli said it's a fake, but it was made from original film. I think that's really the question. The question isn't whether I made it because I can prove I made it. John Humphries will tell you I made it. Ray would probably tell you I made it. He couldn't deny it. There's

> too much evidence. The question is, did I make it from original film? And the simple answer to that is no. There was never any original film other than the tent footage. I've never seen any other film. Ray maintains that he's got original film. My question to Ray is, how would that film marry with what I made? It can't. I haven't actually seen the film. Now you may say, "Maybe you're lying and you did see the film and you made it."
>
> The story's a bigger story if there was a real film. There would be more money in it. There wouldn't be a reason for me and Ray to be parted. Why would we fall out? The common sense has got to come into the argument. I'm part of something as big as real film of a real alien. Why would I jeopardize being part of that and go off on my own? There's no reason to. That's the first thing.
>
> The second thing. I promise you, something happened in Roswell. I'm a skeptic. I'm not an easy person to convince. Thirty people that I talked to out there, clever people, doctors, lecturers, all sorts of people, tell me they saw something. And I believe them. Something happened. A lot of ordinary people. Something happened. So I don't think there's dispute about whether or not something happened in Roswell or other sightings or whether or not everything's fake. No, I don't think everything's fake. I do know this is. I also know that if Ray had original film, he'd be jumping through hoops to let you test it. That's what you would do. You would say, "Give me billions of pounds for this." You would say, "I've got nothing to worry about. The cameraman doesn't want to speak, but look at the film."

The full, unedited interview can be found in the Alien Autopsy section of our website, cited above.

CHECKING THE FACTS

So how do we check that what Melaris is telling us is correct? It is no easy task, I can assure you. The documentary material shown to me by Spyros is intriguing but not proof positive. My American colleague Mark Center established that the private pilot Rodney Corn does exist. Mark spoke with him on the phone, but he has no recollection of being hired by Spyros Melaris. However, when questioned about this Melaris informed me that because his former girlfriend Geraldine booked Corn's services, the transaction is not listed in Melaris's name.

German researcher Michael Hesemann, who spoke at the October 2007 conference, investigated the film from 1995 through 1997. He believes it to be authentic. After the conference, when Hesemann was back home, he sent me a stunning email. In it he acknowledged that in 1996 someone emailed him to report that Spyros Melaris was the hoaxer. Hesemann had never shared this information with anyone. I asked him what he did with it. It turned out that he phoned Santilli and asked him if he knew this man. Santilli claimed that he did not, and Hesemann said he pursued the matter no further.

As it happens, Melaris independently informed me that in 1996 he had received a phone call from someone with a German accent asking him if he was the hoaxer, and he of course denied it. He did not know who the caller was until he met Hesemann at our conference. When I pressed him about this, he eventually admitted he did phone Spyros back in 1996. Why Michael Hesemann never shared this information with anyone else is beyond me.

A colleague who is a veteran TV and movie special effects artist looked at the interview with Melaris. He was impressed by the techniques and materials Melaris and his team allegedly used to make the alien creature appear real. He does not doubt that the dummies were constructed in the way described.

The other main participant is American television producer Bob Kiviat. Several years back, my colleague Tim Mathews and I were tipped off about John Humphreys as part of the team and maker of the dummies. Kiviat tried for years to get Humphreys on camera for a TV documentary, but to no avail. Eventually Kiviat did make a TV show for the U.K.'s Channel 5 but without Humphreys's participation. In any event, the documentary was never broadcast. Both Humphreys and Melaris have spoken at length with Kiviat about their involvement in this whole affair. On December 4, 2007, I asked Kiviat a few questions:

> *PM:* How many times did you speak with Humphreys?
>
> *BK:* Once before the Ant & Dec movie [*Alien Autopsy,* 2006] came out. In approximately 2003. Once after that.
>
> *PM:* Did Humphreys tell you on what he based the design for his alien creatures?
>
> *BK:* Yes, just on his own research, books and such. No other help.
>
> *PM:* Did Humphreys ever see any original film, stills or otherwise ?
>
> *BK:* No, never. He claimed it all came from his creative efforts and book research.
>
> *PM:* During your conversations with Humphreys did he ever mention the name Spyros Melaris ?
>
> *BK:* Yes. He said Spyros was the one who hired him for Santilli, who he met perhaps twice and came to the set once. All the money came through Spyros. Also Spyros was the cameraman.
>
> *PM:* Did Humphreys provide the names of anyone else involved? If yes, what are those names ?
>
> *BK:* No other names.
>
> *PM:* Why was Humphreys looking to work with you on a documentary?
>
> *BK:* Yes, Humphreys wanted me to get him a network TV show based on his revelations that he made the autopsy footage, with Spyros acting as money man and cameraman, who he believed was working for Santilli.
>
> *PM:* Was Humphreys going to tell all and sink the stories put out by Ray Santilli?

BK: Yes, but until I got a commitment from a TV network and guaranteed money for his exclusive, he kept much close to his chest.

PM: Did you speak to Humphreys agent/advisor?

BK: Yes, his business manager was my main contact for all of 2003 and 2004, and it was he who informed me John was going to do the Ant & Dec movie, without giving me the details. There would also be a companion documentary "that would be my worst nightmare," he said.

PM: If you did, what did he tell you about Humphreys's involvement and reasons for wanting to spill the beans?

BK: Instead of Humphreys spilling the beans to me, his manager clearly implied John had lost patience and saw a payday elsewhere—the movie, etc.

PM: You made a TV documentary for Channel Five in 2006 in which I appeared. Could you tell us why it was never broadcast?

BK: Channel Five was rushing instructions to my production offices in L.A. from England telling me how the show needed to be styled, and they also wanted to move the airdate up to an almost impossible deadline. We were working around the clock already to appease the Channel Five executive in charge when one of the top people at Five actually listed the show in a TV guide of some sort. That's when Gary Shoefield contacted Five and falsely claimed Ray Santilli was involved in the ownership of my original Fox show, which the new Five show was jumping off from. It was an outright fabrication, for my company has the only U.S. copyright to the show and the alien autopsy footage itself. While we were sorting through this false claim, we interviewed you.

When the Five executives saw you naming Humphreys as the guy who made the dummy and who was the key pro behind the footage, they wanted confirmation so they illegally contacted Humphreys through a consulting producer. Humphreys freaked out, told them he wanted nothing to do with the Five show and said he had to contact Warner Bros. Ultimately, Five reneged on their agreement with my distributor. My distributor did not fight for the airing, and this is how things were left. I'm still debating what course of action I can take to recover my substantial losses and damage.

PM: You have spoken on the telephone at length with Spyros Melaris. Are you convinced he is telling the truth?

BK: For the most part, I can't find any outlandish things that make his story unbelievable. But I do wonder how he could have been so naïve about the amount of money Santilli was making around the world. This part seems odd, as if he was playing dumb. On the contrary, he seems very bright. And if Ray gave him just enough work to keep him quiet afterward, I still wonder why he let all the other money go into Ray's pocket without him demanding his share. This doesn't add up, literally, pound for pound.

PM: You have been involved with the alien autopsy film since 1995. You have interviewed or spoken to most if not all the main players in it all, so what now is your conclusion?

BK: I'm going to need more time to answer that question. Spryros's actions or nonactions in court will have a lot to do with this, and I'm looking into another intriguing angle that could impact my conclusions.

It's clear that there are slight differences between what John Humphreys says about his role in the faking of the film and what Melaris says. Humphreys does state quite clearly, however, that Melaris was the money man who hired him on behalf of Santilli. Humphreys also confirms that no original film existed. The autopsy affair, in other words, was a fraud from beginning to end. ◆

LETTER

REPRESSED MEMORIES

To the editor:

Greg Sandow's article (*IUR* 31:4) provided an excellent overview on the issues involved in the Hill case. May I make a couple of additional comments?

The long discussion on the possibility of repressed memories is a red herring. Surely no one suggests that missing time is the result of abductees' repressing a memory too frightening to confront? If the phenomenon is real, it would mean that the aliens had induced the amnesia—possibly by a method similar to hypnosis.

None of this, of course, proves that the memories obtained by hypnotic regression are accurate, merely that the wrong question is being asked.

Second, the discussion about whether Barney was subconsciously influenced by a recent episode of *The Outer Limits* also overlooks one thing. He never normally watched this show or any other sci-fi program. So if he had broken his routine that night, it would have stuck in his conscious mind. In other words, he would have said something like, "The eyes looked just like the eyes in that silly science fiction program I watched a few months back."

Malcolm Smith
Bracken Ridge, Queensland, Australia

NEW EXOPLANET DISCOVERED

A team of European scientists working with the French Space Agency's COROT space mission has discovered an exoplanet orbiting a star slightly more massive than the Sun. COROT-exo-4b is an exoplanet about the same size as Jupiter. Its star rotates at the same pace as the planet's period of revolution, about 9.2 days. Launched in December 2006, COROT is the first space-based mission designed to search for exoplanets.—*European Space Agency, July 25.*

THE 2007 CANADIAN UFO SURVEY

BY MARK RODEGHIER

Every year since 1989 Chris Rutkowski has led a team from UFOlogy Research of Manitoba that has collected UFO reports from across Canada from a variety of sources and compiled them in a yearly report. The most recent survey from 2007 has recently been completed and is available online at survey.canadianuforeport.com.

There are many sources for UFO reports, but almost all of these and their online databases simply record sightings but don't attempt much, if any, analysis. The Canadian UFO Survey is different as the authors not only present statistical summaries of a variety of report characteristics, but also evaluate the reports and place them in the categories of "Insufficient Evidence," "Probable Explanation," "Explained," and "Unexplained." In this article I want to highlight noteworthy trends in the reports, supplementing what the authors present.

UFO REPORTS BY YEAR

It is now well known that UFO reports declined considerably in the 1980s and that this trend continued into the 1990s. However, in many countries, including Canada, reports have begun to increase in the past few years. Admittedly, no one knows why, but if the increase is tied to human factors, then there are some possible causes. First, the internet has made it much easier to report a UFO sighting, and this could easily lead to an rise in recorded sightings, without any increase in actual UFOs. Reducing the barriers for a behavior—reporting—usually leads to more of that behavior.

Second, there is more attention to UFOs on television, as the History Channel and Discovery Channel, among others, regularly run programs on the UFO subject. This could lead to more attention to the UFO phenomenon among the public, which in turn could lead to an increased willingness to report, and even a greater likelihood of noticing something odd in the sky.

If the increase is instead intrinsic to the UFO phenomenon itself, that is more intriguing but frustrating. The motives of any intelligence behind the UFO sightings cannot be fathomed, and all we are left with is speculation (which admittedly can be fun).

Whatever the cause, UFO reports have increased in Canada since 2000. As you can see in Figure 1, reports rose sharply in 2001 for four straight years, though since then have leveled off at four times what they were in the 1990s. There were over two UFO reports per day in Canada in 2007.

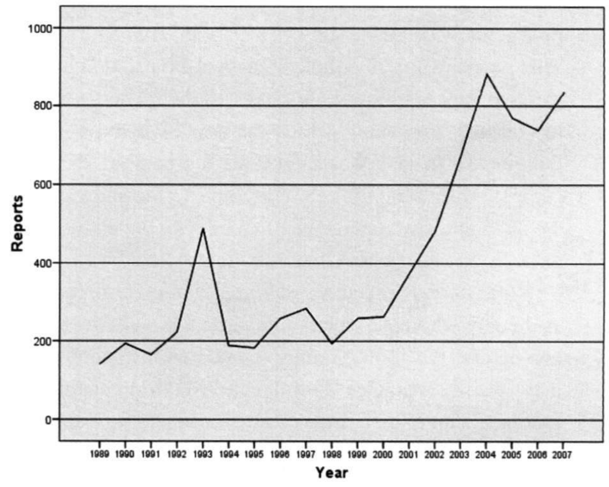


Fig. 1. UFO reports by year, 1989 to 2007.

UNEXPLAINED UFO REPORTS

UFO reports have increased, but has this led to more unexplained cases? It is possible that UFO sightings increased, but most of this can be attributed to *explained* reports. Maybe witnesses have become more prone to misperception in the current decade, and reported more possible UFOs, but after Rutkowski and colleagues evaluated the reports, the number of "true" unexplained UFOs didn't change much. Figure 2 has the answer (1994 and 1995 were combined in the original data, so I gave them same percentage, which won't change any conclusions).

Several features are evident about this chart. There is certainly no large change over time in the percentage of unexplained reports over the almost 20-year period. If we ignore

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Mark Rodeghier is scientific director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

the large spike in 1992, though, there is a tendency for the percentage of unexplaineds to slowly increase, exemplified by the thicker line, which is the best linear fit to the percentages by year. However, this is a very weak trend, and the increase is only two percent over the entire time span.

More to the point, as the number of reports increased in the current decade, the percentage of unexplained reports didn't drop precipitously. This means that these reports kept pace with the increase in all types of reports (although the percentage has dropped a bit in the 2000s).

So, interestingly, the rise in reports was accompanied by an increase in all categories of reports (although there was a shift to more reports being classified "Probable Explanation" and fewer as "Explained").

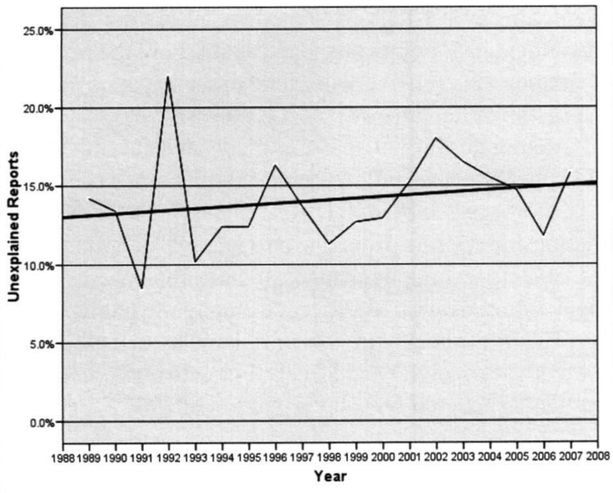

Fig. 2. Percentage of unexplained reports by year, 1989 to 2007, with best fit line.

This relationship has been observed previously in data from many other countries and UFO groups. The percentage of unknowns is about the same, whether the number of reports is few or many. Skeptics hear this and believe it adds weight to their dismissal of UFOs. They reason that (a) there is a relatively constant level of people seeing planes, stars, balloons, and other stuff and making IFO reports, so (b) if the number of UFO sightings increases, there should be more unexplained reports. Since (b) generally isn't true except at times of intense UFO flaps (which don't really occur any more and have not occurred in this period in Canada), they conclude that there is no fundamental difference between IFO and UFO reports. Then, taking a big leap off a mental cliff, they presume that all UFOs could be explained if we had enough information.

Proponents of UFOs—or just plain clear thinkers—grant that skeptics lay out one possible scenario. But there are several others that would account for this pattern in unexplained reports. For example, if (a) the number of unexplained UFOs is relatively constant each year, and (b) at certain times, people are more willing to report what they perceive to be UFOs (because of the factors noted above, such as the internet or programs on UFOs), then as reports increase, the number of unexplained cases will also increase, and so the percentage will remain about the same.

As you can observe, both sides in this debate have to make assumptions, and given our current state of knowledge, we can't choose which of these potential explanations—or others—is correct. We can be certain, though, that Canadians have dozens and dozens of unexplained UFO sightings each year (and these are only the ones reported to a UFO group or website; the vast majority of UFO sightings are never reported).

CLOSE ENCOUNTER CASES

Although all types of UFO cases can be interesting, we can all agree that close encounter reports are ones that draw our attention and, in theory, can offer more data for study. Of course, this isn't always true, as evidenced by the MUFON investigation of radar traces associated with the Stephensville, Texas, cluster of reports in January 2008. The existence of confirmatory radar data for that case makes it a radar-visual case, and a darn good one, but still not a close encounter.

Back in the 1960s and 1970s, there was an abundance of interesting close encounter cases, whether physical traces, vehicle interference, humanoid, or just a UFO coming within spitting distance of a witness. Today, these cases are a small fraction of what they once were. If we look at the Canadian data, what do we find? Figure 3 tells one half of the story, showing the absolute number of close encounter cases by year. As with the previous chart, the thicker line is the best linear fit to the data.

Even if the trend is slight, the number of close encounter cases is increasing slowly, and this is certainly true since about the year 2000; after that, the rise has been steeper than the overall trend, with cases more than doubling. We don't want to get too excited, since there are only a couple of dozen of these reports each year.

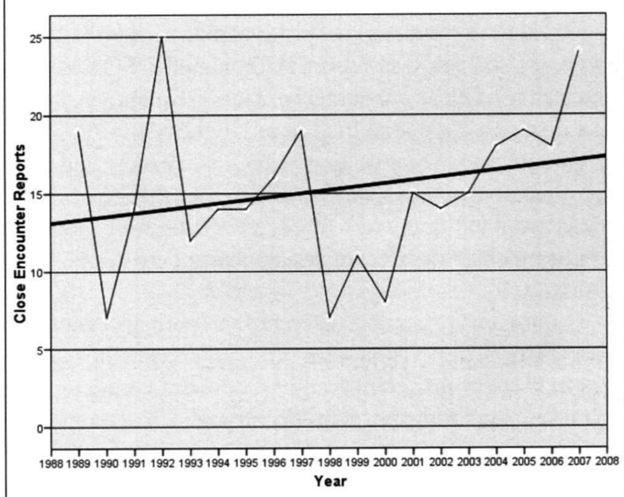

Fig. 3. Number of close encounter reports by year, 1989 to 2007, with best fit line.

If you are ahead of me, you've already thought of the following. If UFO reports have increased recently in Canada, but close encounter cases have not increased as much, then as a percentage of reports they must have decreased. Figure 4 gives us the answer, listing the percentage of close encounter cases by year.

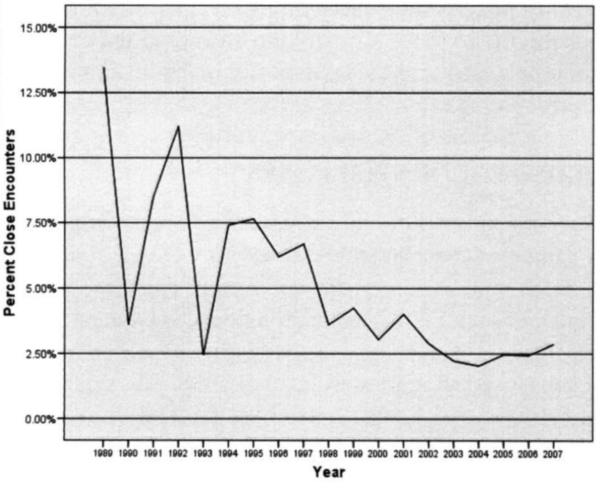

Fig. 4. Percentage of close encounter reports by year, 1989 to 2007.

The trend is unmistakable, so much so that I haven't bothered to fit a line to these data. You don't need statistics to see that the proportion of close encounters has dropped over this period, with the steepest decline in the 1990s; the 2000s saw the percentage level off. And the drop has been substantial, with the percentage of close encounter cases dropping by a factor of 4 to 5 or so from when the data were first collected by Rutkowski and colleagues.

What might be causing this pattern? Why are UFO reports increasing, but close encounter reports much less so? It could be the UFO phenomenon itself, which still appears but does so more distantly from the witnesses. Since the percentage of unexplained cases, which include many close encounters, has slightly increased over time, this explanation is plausible. Witnesses still see and report unexplained UFOs in large numbers, so if close encounters are less frequent, they must have declined compared to all true UFO cases.

It could also be true that witnesses already had been reporting most of the close encounter cases that do occur, so an increased willingness to report a UFO sighting wouldn't have as much of an effect on the number of close encounter reports.

Taking this reasoning a step further, perhaps people are more willing to report non–close encounter cases, because of increased attention to UFOs and the ease of making reports. If you see something that is mildly strange, do you report it? Twenty years ago the answer may have been no, but today, via the internet, the answer is more likely yes.

All of these factors lead me to be little surprised at the pattern in Figure 4. We need a major flap or wave of sightings to substantially increase the percentage of close encounters. Or, there must be fewer reports in general, like the early 1990s. But the most plausible interpretation of the Canadian data is that the *number* of close encounter cases has been relatively constant in this period in Canada. (Since close encounter cases have a higher strangeness rating—an indication of how unusual a report is—the average strangeness of Canadian reports has been declining slowly over the period 1989 to 2007.)

Learning new things about the UFO phenomenon is a painstaking process, like all science, and it requires patient, long-term work, such as that done by Rutkowski and colleagues. But with data in hand, we can make some limited progress in our knowledge of UFOs (or, at least, UFOs in Canada, although I see no reason why these trends don't apply more broadly). If close encounter cases are relatively constant, it tells us something about the true UFO phenomenon. It points out, once again, how the real UFO phenomenon is relatively immune to the vagaries of social and historical factors.

Taking this further, that doesn't mean that somehow the UFO phenomenon isn't intertwined with human consciousness, as suggested by some researchers. But even then, that relationship appears to operate on a relatively constant level, not subject to economic changes, social turbulence, or beliefs about extraterrestrial intelligence among the public.

This is the beauty of having reliable data. It allows you to think constructively and freely, but with one's feet still at least half-anchored on solid ground. ✦

UFOs IN BRAZIL

Brazil has one of the most extensive records of official UFO interest, including such government-sponsored projects as Operação Prato (Operation Saucer) carried out by the Air Force in the state of Para in 1977. The Brazilian military also has had several dramatic UFO encounters, including the events of May 20, 1986, known as "The Night of the UFO" in Brazil.

Air Force Brigadier Jose Carlos Pereira was general commander for Air Operations and for the Brazilian Airspace Defense Command (Comdabra) from 1999 to 2001. On March 8, 2008, Brig. Gen. Pereira gave the editors at *Brazilian UFO Magazine* an exclusive interview about his own views on the UFO subject and the Brazilian military's role in UFO investigation.

Gen. Pereira is a firm supporter of transparency and the release of as much information as possible about the UFO subject by all governments. The interview with him has not been picked up by the general media, although an English translation is available. The interview makes it clear that Brazil did and still does take UFOs seriously.

Read it in two parts at www.ufo.com.br/public/pereira/All_UFO_Secrets_Must_Be_Disclosed_1.doc, and www.ufo.com.br/public/pereira/All_UFO_Secrets_Must_Be_Disclosed_2.doc.

MISSILES—*continued from page 14*

me of the report of UFOs from [Ent AFB] I could tell by his voice that he wasn't joking." He added, "Please note, at that time, I was not a believer in stories of UFOs and little green men."

Thompson said that he and his partner were never debriefed or warned to remain silent about the incident, but he never again mentioned it to the missile commander. Thompson can't remember the names of the commander or his partner that night.

Significantly, the previously noted Project Blue Book memorandum may actually describe Thompson's report. Among the log entries in it is this one:

> 4:05 a.m.—Colonel Johnson made another phone call to [Blue Book] to say that at 4:00 a.m., Q flight reported nine UFOs in sight: four to the northwest, three to the northeast, and two over Cheyenne.

Although Thompson recalls eight UFOs (all hovering directly above Q-Flight) and the Blue Book memorandum mentions nine (in three distinct groups, in various parts of the sky), the similarity between the two accounts is notable. It seems possible that Thompson's sighting occurred somewhat before, or somewhat after, the report mentioned in the memo. There would have been other personnel at the Quebec Launch Control Facility who could have phoned in a different sighting to F. E. Warren's missile command post, either earlier or later than Thompson's. Perhaps, by that time, the UFOs had scattered. This is, of course, speculation on my part.

On the other hand, because Thompson can't remember the exact date of his own sighting, it's possible that it may not have been among the numerous UFO sightings reported to Blue Book on August 1, 1965. (Thompson was stationed at F. E. Warren in 1963, when he guarded Atlas ICBM sites for two years. He left the base in December 1965.)

Regardless of the date of his sighting, Thompson recalls that his NCOIC, a Sgt. Talley, had told him that eight UFOs had also been observed over Tinker AFB, near Oklahoma City, the night after his own sighting. For the record, there were numerous, widely reported sightings in Tulsa on August 2, 1965—one day after the F. E. Warren AFB sightings reported to Lt. Anspaugh—but I am personally unaware of any published reports from Tinker AFB on that date.

In any event, Thompson's sighting was not the last UFO incident to be reported at Quebec Flight during that period. Less than a week later, he had been approached by another individual in his unit, a Security Alert Team (SAT) member, and told about a far more dramatic incident.

"We worked three days on, three days off," Thompson said, "One crew would relieve the other. Shortly after the sighting, when my crew returned to the LCF, an acquaintance came up and told me that while we were off duty, he had been involved in another UFO sighting, at one of Q-Flight's launch facilities."

According to this individual, he and his partner had been on Camper Alert Team stakeout duty one night, and were sitting in a security camper parked next to the missile launch facility. Without warning, the vehicle began to shake violently. He quickly leaned his head out the window and saw a large, very bright light silently hovering directly above the camper. After a few seconds, the shaking ceased and the light rapidly departed.

(Although this bizarre report is strikingly similar to a scene in Steven Spielberg's 1977 movie, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, researchers Jim Klotz and Tom Tulien have heard another, nearly identical account regarding two USAF missile guards who was stationed at Minot AFB, in North Dakota, in 1968. Tulien told me, "This 'second-hand' story was apparently provided to a B-52 crew [we interviewed] by the commander of the 810th Strategic Aerospace Division during a debriefing following a UFO event at Minot on 24 October 1968. . . . The navigator recalled being informed that a large brightly lit UFO was hovering close above a SAT team vehicle at one of the missile sites, frightening the occupants . . . when their B-52 appeared over the base flight line the UFO went dark and lifted up in the direction of the B-52. [Similarly,] the copilot recalled being informed that a large UFO was hovering close over a SAT vehicle at one of the missile sites, which frightened the SAT team who exited their vehicle running away. Since the team did not report in, a second SAT team was dispatched and found the first team on the ground unconscious with the paint burned off the top of the vehicle.")[7]

Meanwhile, back at F. E. Warren, some three years earlier, the SAT guard went on to tell Bob Thompson that he and his partner had later been debriefed by an OSI agent and ordered not to talk about the incident. However, in spite of this warning, he had nevertheless felt compelled to compare notes with Thompson, whose own UFO experience had occurred less than a week earlier, and was common knowledge among the missile guards at Quebec Flight.

After hearing this strange story, Thompson approached the NCOIC who had been on duty at Quebec the night of the incident—whose name was Talley, or perhaps Robinson—and asked him to verify it. To his surprise, the NCOIC did so. Furthermore, he told Thompson that he had personally seen the UFO as it hovered over the LF.

"The launch facility in question was the one located closest to the LCF," said Thompson, "Even though it was five, maybe six miles away, the NCOIC told me that, on the night of the incident, he had seen an extremely bright light hovering over its location." Thompson said that he later heard that the UFO activity at various missile flights had continued for about a month.

If the UFO incursions at F. E. Warren's nuclear missile sites had been puzzling and disconcerting for those involved, at least they did not *frighten* the witnesses I've interviewed. However, another retired U.S. Air Force officer, stationed at Minot AFB in the mid-1960s, has an different story to tell—one which will undoubtedly concern, if not alarm, everyone who hears it.

LAUNCH IN PROGRESS!

Of all the interviews I've conducted with former or retired ICBM launch officers over the past three decades, this one was the most disturbing. According to the source, David H. Schuur, a UFO had once activated the launch sequence in most of his Minuteman missiles.

In August 2007, Schuur told me, "I saw your request for information in the [June 2007] *Association of Air Force Missileers Newsletter*. I was involved in a UFO incident at Minot AFB in the mid-1960s. I had read your earlier article [in the September 2002 *AAFM Newsletter*] but was hesitant to respond." I asked Schuur why he had been hesitant. He replied, "Well, we were basically told, way back when, that it was classified information and, you know, it didn't happen and don't discuss it. I guess I was still operating on that idea when I saw your first article."

Schuur had obviously had a change of heart. He continued, "Anyway, I was a Minuteman missile crewmember in the 455th/91st Strategic Missile Wing at Minot from December 1963 through November 1967. I was a 1st lieutenant during that period and the deputy commander that night. Since the incident occurred some 40 years ago, my memories are a bit foggy but, based on who my commander was at the time, I would say it occurred between July 1965 and July 1967."

I asked Schuur if he could narrow the timeframe during which the incident occurred, by associating it with another event. He replied, "Not really, but my sense is that the incident occurred toward the end of my duty in the [missile] field, so it was probably during 1966, or '67. I was pulling alert in the Echo [Launch Control] Capsule and was at the console at the time, probably early in the morning when the commander was sleeping. I know I was at Echo because that's where I pulled almost all of my alert duty. My crew commander at the time has died. He was a lieutenant colonel at Minot, in his 50s—he was in the reserves, an old Korea veteran, who was recalled to duty in the early 1960s.

"As far as the incident, here's my best recollection of it: Alpha capsule, which was east of us, reported on PAS—the Primary Alerting System—that their security personnel were observing a large, bright object hovering over some of their missile sites. It was moving from missile to missile. I think the Alpha missile crew also reported that they were receiving 'spurious indicators' on their missile control console, but I'm not certain about that. I know that a few minutes later our capsule had spurious indicators—anomalous readings—from some of our missiles."

I asked Schuur to explain PAS. He said, "It was an open line between SAC headquarters and the wing command posts. There was a speaker in each launch capsule and when the command posts issued a directive, or whatever, we were able to hear it. When Alpha had their UFO sightings, they alerted the command post, at which time the command post called SAC headquarters. So, when the report of the sightings went out, we all heard it on PAS."

Schuur continued, "But it wasn't just Alpha and Echo. Over the next hour or so—I don't recall exactly how long it was—all of the flights reported that their [Security Alert Teams] were observing a UFO near their facilities. The path of the object could be followed as it passed over each flight area by the reports on the PAS. The object moved over the entire wing from the southeast to the northwest, following the layout of the wing."

Schuur elaborated, "All of them—Bravo Flight, Charlie, Delta, right on down the line to Oscar—were reporting sightings of this object. Minot's missile field is laid out like the letter 'C'. Alpha is located southeast of the base, and the other flights—Bravo, Charlie, and so forth—were south, southwest, west, northwest, then north of Minot. Oscar, the last flight, is at the top of the 'C', north of the base. The object—as far as I know, it was only one object—came across Alpha Flight, then moved all the way around the flights and ended up at Oscar. We could hear that on PAS. At Echo, it didn't come close to the Launch Control Facility, it just visited the LFs (silos), then passed onto the next flight.

"As far as our flight, Echo, a few minutes after hearing the report from Alpha, I received a call from topside security that a large bright light—actually, a large, bright *object* would be more accurate—was in the sky to the east of the launch control facility. When the guard called down, he may have used the term 'UFO' but I don't recall. He didn't describe its shape or altitude because it was too far away. It never got close enough to the LCF to see any detail. At its closest, it was two, three, maybe four miles away from us, near one of the missile sites."

Schuur continued, "However, when the object passed over our flight, we started receiving many spurious indications on our console. The object was apparently sending some kind of signals into each missile. Not every missile got checked [out] by the object, but there were several that did. Maybe six, seven, or eight. Maybe all 10 got checked, but I don't think so. As this thing was passing over each missile site, we would start getting erratic indications on that particular missile. After a few seconds, everything reset back to normal. But then the next missile showed spurious indicators, so the object had apparently moved on to that one, and did the same thing to it. Then on to the next one, and so on. It was as if the object was scanning each missile, one by one. The Inner Security and Outer Security [alarms were triggered] but we got those all the time, for one reason or another. However, on this particular night, we had to activate the 'Inhibit' switch because we got 'Launch in Progress' indicators! After a few minutes, the UFO passed to the northwest of us and all indicators reset to normal."

I wanted to be certain about what I had just been told. I asked Schuur, "So, if you get a Launch in Progress indicator, does that mean the launch sequence has been triggered—that the missile is preparing to launch?" Schuur replied, "That means the missile has received a launch signal. When that happens, we get an indication in the capsule that a launch command has been received by that missile. If that happens, without proper authority, you flip what's called an 'Inhibit' switch, to delay the launch for a given period of time. If an Inhibit command comes in from another launch capsule, that shuts down the launch totally. But if that second command doesn't come in, the missile will wait for a specified period of time and then launch automatically at the end of that expired period—theoretically. Of course, that night, we had all kinds of other indicators coming on from each missile so, in that situation, the launch *probably* would have aborted itself. I honestly don't know."

I asked Schuur if the Launch in Progress indicator had ever been triggered on any other occasion, either before or after the UFO incident, while he was on alert duty. He replied, "No, never."

I asked Schuur if he had heard about missile maintenance teams having to replace components or whole systems in the affected missiles—the ones that generated the spurious readings. He replied, "No, if that happened, I never heard about it."

Schuur said, "Upon returning to the base the next day, my commander and I were met by the operations officer. He just said, 'Nothing happened, nothing to discuss, goodbye.' Our logs and tapes were turned in. Every capsule had a 24-hour tape that, as I recall, recorded the communications that went over the PAS system, so all the reports would have been on that tape. But we were essentially told that nothing had happened that night and to discuss it no further. It was a non-event. We were never debriefed, by OSI or anyone else. We just went home. Most of the returning missile crews drove back to the base from their facilities, so they all arrived at different times. There was no group debriefing that I know of. I never heard another thing about the incident."

I asked Schuur, "I know that you were given no feedback from your superiors, but what is your personal assessment of the event?" He replied, "Oh, I think something was up there, uh, scanning the missiles, seeing what was going on. Some kind of a scanning process." I asked Schuur whether he thought the launch activation had been incidental or deliberate. He seemed surprised by my question and said, "I think that the scanning just set it off. It set all kinds of things off, we were getting all sorts of indicators. There were some kind of signals being sent [from the UFO] to the missile that inadvertently triggered the launch activation, but I don't think it was deliberate. I hope not! That would have been—." Schuur didn't finish this sentence. His voice broke and he heaved a deep sigh. Apparently, the thought that those aboard the UFO might have deliberately attempted to launch his nuclear missiles that night had caused him to pause—and probably shudder—over 40 years later.

I obviously accept Schuur's report as credible, but am of course attempting to locate other former members of his squadron who are willing to corroborate it. As Schuur candidly admitted, after reading my first article in the September 2002 *AAFM Newsletter,* he cautiously waited some five years before approaching me. It was only after my second published request for information from former/retired USAF missileers, that he decided to unburden himself. This hesitant response is not atypical. Many of my former missile launch officer sources have not readily or easily divulged their UFO experiences to me, for one reason or another.

To my knowledge, Schuur's testimony represents the only credible report on record of a UFO temporarily activating the launch sequence in U.S. nuclear missiles. However, there is one other reliable report of such an activation—in the former Soviet Union.

In October 1994, ABC News aired an episode of its news magazine *Primetime Live*, featuring interviews with former Soviet military personnel who had been involved in one UFO-related incident or another during the Cold War. After the collapse of the U.S.S.R. in 1991, some of these individuals began speaking openly with Western journalists and researchers about previously classified UFO sightings.

ABC reporter David Ensor set up the segment: "During a five-month investigation *Primetime* obtained over a thousand pages of documents collected by the old KGB. We spoke to dozens of Russian scientists, government officials, and military men. We now know that the entire Soviet armed forces, a total of 15 million people over 10 years, was involved in a UFO study that turned up 40 major incidents, including one that prompted fears of starting an accidental nuclear war." That particular incident was remarkably similar to, and just as frightening, as the one David Schuur revealed to me in August 2007.

Among those interviewed by ABC News was retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Plantonev, who described an hours-long UFO sighting on October 4, 1982, near an IRBM base outside the village of Belokorovichi in northern Ukraine. He told Ensor, "It looked just like a flying saucer. The way they show them in the movies. No portholes, nothing. The surface was absolutely even. The disk made a beautiful turn, like this, on the edge, just like a plane. There was no sound. I had never seen anything like that before."

Apparently, while the UFO was still in the vicinity, an unspecified number of nuclear missiles suddenly activated. As the horrified launch crew looked on helplessly, the automated launch sequence was enabled—without proper

Remnant of Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces IRBM base near Belokorovichi, Ukraine.

authorization—and proceeded to count down for 15 terrifying seconds, before aborting and returning to standby status.

Another retired army officer, Colonel Igor Chernovshev, told Ensor: "During this period, for a short time, signal lights on both the control panels suddenly turned on. The lights showing that missiles were preparing for launch. This could normally only happen if an order were transmitted from Moscow." A transcript of the ABC program is currently available online.[8]

In 2004, the History Channel aired a program, *Soviet UFO Secrets Revealed*, in which a research scientist at the Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, Ionosphere, and Radio Wave Propagation of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, Yulii V. Platov, said that an official Soviet government investigation had subsequently determined that the object seen hovering near the missile site was, in reality, only a falling flare from an army exercise being conducted that day. However, this explanation is highly suspect. As David Ensor reported in the earlier ABC program, "Every person we spoke to in Belokorovichi said they saw a flying saucer on that day. They told us it was huge, about 900 feet in diameter. For hours it hovered over the nearby ballistic missile base."

So, it appears that Platov may have been misled by someone. Perhaps at the time, the Soviet investigators were themselves misled by military personnel attempting to throw a security blanket around the incident. Someone should send Platov the transcript of the ABC program. I emailed him in 2005, attempting to open a dialogue on the case, but he never responded.

In any event, some very intriguing UFO-related events occurred at both U.S. and Soviet nuclear missile sites during the Cold War era. Given this fact, one might at least conclude that the UFO phenomenon doesn't seem to be playing favorites.

Moreover, as I discuss in my forthcoming book, UFO activity has continued at ICBM sites—at least in the U.S.—almost to the present day. One recent case, which I am still investigating, occurred in December 2006, outside Conrad, Montana, where the Air Force's 564th Missile Squadron is in the process of dismantling its 50 Minuteman missile sites. According to the Arms Control Association, "The reductions are part of the U.S. effort to work toward fulfilling the May 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT). That agreement requires U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals to have less than 2,200 operationally deployed strategic warheads each on December 31, 2012."[9] At least the old adversaries are now moving in the right direction.

SCENARIOS

Given the extraordinary nature of the incidents described in this article, one obvious interpretation of UFO activity at ICBM sites is that someone or something was monitoring, on an ongoing basis, the nuclear stand-off between the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the Cold War era. A second possible scenario, in conjunction with the first, is that those piloting the UFOs were intent on performing provocative aerial displays at these sites—punctuated by the occasional disruption, or the thankfully far rarer activation of the weapons themselves—so the powers that be in Washington and Moscow could not possibly ignore the UFO presence near their respective strategic weapons deployment sites.

If this was indeed the intent, one can only guess at the identities of the UFO pilots, and the message such aerial acrobatics and disruptions were meant to convey. Were they extraterrestrial visitors expressing concern and/or displeasure over our possession of nuclear weapons? If so, their approach was strangely nonconfrontational—certainly not as overt or dramatic as the approach used by the aliens portrayed in the 1951 science-fiction film, *The Day the Earth Stood Still.*

As most of us know, in the movie, a federation of aliens have their representative land near the White House in a flying saucer, to chastise mankind for its warlike ways, and to warn of the inherent folly in using nuclear weapons. As such, the script envisions an extremely jarring type of First Contact. Humans learn, in one fell swoop, that not only do other, superior life forms exist in the universe, but also that those extraterrestrials are decidedly unhappy about the direction our warfare technology has taken. The capper is that the aliens intend to destroy mankind unless we abandon our aggressive tendencies and live in peace with one another. Yikes!

While this fictional scenario may have been an audience-grabbing theme in 1951, one wonders if real extraterrestrials—assuming they exist—would pursue a similar tack when attempting to warn an inferior race of beings against their perilous rush toward probable oblivion in nuclear conflict. I suspect not, but who knows? Perhaps the reports Jim Klotz and I have collected from former USAF missile men provide a few clues.

On the other hand, if extraterrestrials weren't maneuvering their craft above U.S. nuclear weapons facilities, is it possible the UFO pilots were from the Soviet Union, pointedly demonstrating their amazing, almost inexplicably inventive use of the German technology they captured at the end of World War II? Some terrestrial-UFO proponents would say this is a possibility; however, I strongly disagree for several obvious reasons not worth pursuing here.

"Okay," some would say, "if the UFOs weren't Russian, they had to have been made in the USA." While this is another *possible* scenario, it suffers from most of the same shortcomings as the Soviet UFO theory. I believe that if one carefully considers the reported incidents—from both countries—presented in this article, the theory that UFOs are either Soviet or U.S. secret weapons simply falls apart. Although there will always be those who contend that each and every bona fide UFO sighting—the oft-cited 5% of all reports—is of a man-made craft, in my view, no persuasive evidence exists to support such a comprehensive, indiscriminate declaration. Although there might now be an aircraft at some secret base in Nevada capable of the fantastic speeds and amazing maneuvers exhibited by UFOs, in countless cases over the last six decades, is it realistic to suppose that the U.S. had such a craft in the 1940s, 1960s, or even the 1980s? I think not.

For this and many other reasons, I maintain that the UFOs visiting the superpowers' ICBM sites during the Cold War were neither U.S. nor Soviet secret weapons. Consequently, the ongoing UFO surveillance of, and occasional interference with, strategic nuclear missiles—on both sides of the ocean—was due to something else altogether. While overwhelming empirical evidence does not yet exist, at least in the public domain, to confirm an extraterrestrial origin for UFOs, it can at least be said that some as yet unfathomable mystery has been thrown in the faces of those who planned, and still plan, to use these terrifying weapons in warfare.

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EDGAR MITCHELL SPEAKS OUT

Former astronaut and moon-walker Edgar Mitchell—a veteran of NASA's Apollo 14 mission in 1971—has claimed that aliens do exist and they have visited Earth on several occasions, but the contact has been repeatedly covered up by governments for six decades. Mitchell, 77, said during a July 23 interview (available on YouTube) with Nick Margerrison on Kerrang! Radio in England, that sources at the space agency who had contact with aliens described the beings as "little people who look strange to us." He also claimed our technology is "not nearly as sophisticated" as theirs and "had they been hostile," he warned, "we would be been gone by now."

"It's been well covered up by all our governments for the last 60 years or so, but slowly it's leaked out and some of us have been privileged to have been briefed on some of it."—*Brisbane (Australia) Courier-Mail, July 24.*

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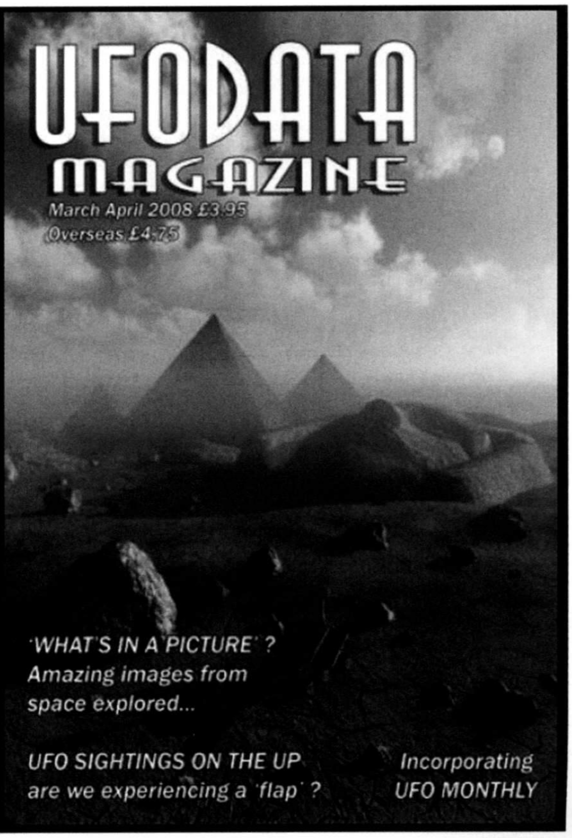

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Mail this form to: CUFOS, 2457 W. Peterson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659; Phone (773) 271-3611

(06/08)